

29 Oct 1997

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THE TIMES

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

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Minister sought anti-Tory message

Civil servant quits in row on 'spinning'

By JILL SHERMAN AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

TENSIONS over apparent attempts to turn civil servants into government spin doctors grew yesterday as a senior information officer resigned and a minister was reportedly rebuked after a row about a "political" press release.

Jonathan Haslam, who was John Major's last press secretary, joined the exodus of senior officers after a bitter wrangle with the Education Minister Stephen Byers over a sentence critical of the Tories in a statement about parents' choice of schools.

Mr Byers had drafted the press release and asked Mr Haslam on Tuesday night to prepare it for the next day. But Mr Haslam infuriated the minister by refusing to include a paragraph saying: "This further increase in the number of appeals by parents shows how hollow the claim of the previous Government that they were extending parental choice 'really was'." Mr Haslam, supported by his colleagues, said that the sentence was too political.

The following morning, it is understood that Mr Byers summoned Michael Richard, the permanent secretary, to complain about Mr Haslam. Sources say, however, that Mr Richard used the occasion to upbraid the minister for attempting to break the Civil Service code of impartiality.

He is said to have reminded the minister of the guidance on the actions of information officers which states: "These should be objective and explanatory, not tendentious or polemical, and should not be,



Byers: warned about role on objectivity

or liable to misrepresentation as being party political".

Mr Byers then contacted the Labour Party press machine at Millbank to ensure that the absent paragraph was included in a party press release sent out at the same time as that prepared by Mr Haslam.

Within 24 hours, Mr Haslam had announced that he had resigned to become director of corporate affairs at the London Metal Exchange. He refused to be drawn on the incident with Mr Byers.

Whitehall sources have accused ministers in other departments of trying to insert political statements into press statements criticising the Tories" or "the previous administration". Complaints have been also made to Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, about the media handling of the £300 million diverted to the National Health Service this week.

Ministers used to the services of the Millbank reboun-

ted unit when in opposition, are known to be concerned that their press officers have not tried to promote their stories and last month Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, issued a memo to all information officers complaining about their failure to put the Government's case across.

Whitehall sources admit that their operation could be sharpened up — Sir Robin has already set up a review — but they reject any suggestion that they should depart from their traditional impartiality.

They have recently become

alarmed about recent "spinning" of stories that they held a meeting with their union officials yesterday to discuss the problem. They also complained that ministers and their political advisers were "spinning about them". One press officer who resigned was said to have been described by a political source as "dead meat".

This meeting came hours after Jean Caines, director of information at the Trade and Industry Department, confirmed that she was taking early retirement at the age of 50. She is known to have had a number of run-ins with junior ministers.

Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio who is in charge of government presentation, has said that the information service is valued

and that reports about

politicisation are groundless.

Rough ride, page 11
Leading article, page 21



Tai-Shan Schierenberg with his golden wedding anniversary painting

University anger at Blunkett attack

An eminent scientist working on a revolutionary project to defeat malaria has been drawn into a row over an "astonishing" attack by David Blunkett on university academics teaching his student son Alastair. Page 2

Smith U-turn on Waterstone's

WH Smith performed a strategic U-turn yesterday when it announced plans to demerge the Waterstone's chain and to sell the Virgin/Our Price music business and The Wall, its US music business. Page 25

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Paedophiles face life bans from children's play areas

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LAWS banning paedophiles from schools, playgrounds and other risk areas are expected to be introduced by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, within the next few weeks.

Courts would be able to impose restriction orders on convicted sex offenders that would ban them indefinitely from areas where they might reoffend, under proposals likely to figure in the Crime and Disorder Bill.

The community protection orders would carry a penalty of up to five years' jail and unlimited fines if they were breached and could also cover people who commit paedophile crimes overseas. Police officers or local authorities could apply for the order if they were concerned about a sex offender in their area.

Mr Straw is also expected to introduce proposals that would subject convicted paed-

ophiles to supervision orders that may require them to keep in touch with probation officers long after their sentences had expired.

The move was disclosed by Henry McLeish, the Scottish Home Affairs Minister, as a possible new law for Scotland and it was confirmed later that ministers were considering similar measures for the whole United Kingdom.

Mr McLeish said: "If there is a concern in a community, there could be a court order backed up by reports which will actually infringe on the liberties of this individual. It will detail areas they cannot go to. This could be an indefinite order, depending on their behaviour, and it could also be punishable by up to five years in prison if they break the order."

This will put tremendous pressure on the individual and, more importantly, it will

reassure the community that the Government is listening, the Government wants further action."

Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, said the Tories would scrutinise the plans because they broke new territory.

He said: "Everybody ... finds crimes identified with paedophiles to be disgusting, depraved and unacceptable, but what we are not in the position of doing, I think, without a lot of careful consideration ... we need to understand ... the implications for some of the fundamental freedoms of citizens of this country, particularly those who have paid their debt."

Civil liberties groups and lawyers also criticised the plans. They said the measures risked "opening the door to harassment" and might

be discriminatory.

Mr Straw is expected to

introduce the proposals on

Wednesday.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Lords deal double blow on handguns

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government suffered a double defeat in the House of Lords last night over its plans to introduce a total ban on handguns.

Lord Crawshaw, a Tory

peer, said it was hard for disabled people to change from using pistols to rifles or shotguns which were too heavy, but Lord Williams of

Wessex, the junior Home Office minister, said he could

not accept any exemptions.

Last night Mike Yardley, of

the Sportsmen's Association,

which has lobbied against the

proposed ban, welcomed the

vote. "It shows the Lords have

been listening to our case."

A Labour Party spokesman

said: "The total ban on hand-

guns is supported by the

overwhelming majority of the

House of Commons. The public will be

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Review of party funding could lead to early legislation

A LIMIT on the amount political parties can spend on general election campaigns came a step closer yesterday.

Sir Patrick Neill, QC, formally appointed by Tony Blair to replace Lord Nolan as the public standards watchdog, confirmed he would examine all aspects of party political funding. At the same time, Mr Blair promised legislation to clean up the system.

In future, corporate donations to election funds could be capped and require shareholders' approval. State funding for parties will be examined, as will the type of blind trust set up to fund Mr Blair's office in opposition. The issue of allowing

civil servants to be seconded to help to run party offices will also be looked at.

Sir Patrick's wide-ranging review of party funding coincided with the announcement from Mr Blair that he was to introduce early legislation to ban foreign donations to political parties and to make public the name of any donor who contributes more than £5,000.

Sir Patrick, who is to take up his new post next month and is to become a life peer, is still waiting for his formal remit from Mr Blair, which he expected to be drawn up

with the agreement of the other political parties. But it is clear that if new rules are brought in by the next general election, they could signal more restrained political campaigns. It is believed that in the last election, the Conservatives spent £20 million, Labour £13 million and the Liberal Democrats £3 million on their national publicity drives.

Sir Patrick said yesterday he would look at the funding of opposition parties, including how party leaders funded their offices. There have been many questions asked about the "blind trust" set up

to run Mr Blair's opposition office, although his aides insist it was done to protect Mr Blair so that he would not be influenced by knowing the names of donors and how much they had given his campaign.

Sir Patrick said it would be "anomalous" if party leaders' funding was not included. "There has to be a package of rules that are fair across the parties. If there were methods of getting round the statutory controls or escape routes nobody would have confidence in the system."

He insisted he had a completely

open mind about party funding but that he might look at party expenditure as well as income.

"One possible aspect we're looking at is overall expenditure by the parties. There's a limit on what candidates can spend, but no limit on what the parties can spend at an election time. And that strikes most observers as somewhat odd. There are also questions about income."

Sir Patrick, a former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, hopes to bring out a discussion paper on all the issues concerning party funding within three months and to take

evidence in public next spring.

Mr Blair said: "The purpose of putting Pat Neill in charge of the new committee is so that he can look at all the aspects of the way that political parties are funded; the way their campaigns are run."

"Because what is tremendously important is not just to clean up the standards in Parliament, to make sure there's proper openness and honesty in the way that Members of Parliament conduct their business, but also that political campaigns and the way that parties are funded have the same openness and transparency."

Veteran watchdog, page 11

Scientist defends academics from Blunkett attack

AN EMINENT scientist working on a project to defeat malaria was yesterday drawn into a row over an attack by David Blunkett on university academics teaching his student son Alastair.

Professor Julian Crampion heads the biological sciences department at Liverpool University, where lecturers were criticised by the Education Secretary for spending too much attention on research and too little on teaching students — among them Mr Blunkett's son, a second-year marine biologist.

Academics at the department expressed amazement yesterday after Mr Blunkett said: "The people teaching him are not interested in teaching. They are more interested in their own research. I don't think that's acceptable."

Professor Crampion, who teaches undergraduates, is part of a team trying to alter the genes of mosquitoes so that instead of spreading malaria they become "flying syringes" that deliver a vaccine. The method could prevent the two million deaths from malaria each year.

The department defended its record and said its groundbreaking research helped to inform teaching. Staff pointed to "rave reviews" from students on 20-year-old Mr Blunkett's course.

Trevor Norton, professor of marine biology, described the Education Secretary's outburst as "astonishing". Speaking from the university's Port Erin marine biology centre on the Isle of Man, he said: "I cannot believe these comments deal with the course taught here. I am just astounded."

Minister's son complained teachers were too busy with research, says David Charter

ed and cannot believe he could accuse my staff of that. The enthusiasm with which they teach this particular course is outstanding. We get more applications and inquiries for marine biology than all the other biological sciences put together."

He said the department conducted an annual anonymous survey of students' views and received "rave reviews". He said academics' research brought "immediacy and a cutting edge" to their teaching. Professor Norton added: "I think students should have a right to be

plain about courses they take if they are not good enough for whatever reason, but I think it is rather unfortunate his father should say this."

"One of the things our students say they like best is the very close contact with the members of staff on the course. It is one of the special things they get out of being here."

Mr Blunkett's office yesterday said the comments were made at a seminar for vice-chancellors on Tuesday which the Secretary of State thought was "off the record".

One of the recommendations of the recent Dearing Committee report on Higher Education was an Institute of Teaching and Learning to train university academics to become better teachers. The Government's response will be contained in a White Paper on Lifelong Learning to be published before Christmas.

A spokesman for Liverpool University added: "As a university we are committed to the principle of teaching within an active research environment, and we believe we can demonstrate the benefits which students derive from that."

Chloe Smith, president of the Guild of Students at Liverpool, said Alastair Blunkett had kept a low profile at the university. She added that students often found it hard to adjust to the more pro-active role.

Andrew Taylor, chairman of the Liverpool Association of University Teachers, said lecturers' research was vital. "If universities were just to be for teaching, then presumably we would still be teaching that the earth is flat."

Blunkett: said staff not interested in teaching



Viscount Tonypandy: "eager to bend the knee to anyone above his station" says Sir Robert Rhodes James

Tonypandy was 'malicious bully'

By NICHOLAS WATT
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VISCOUNT Tonypandy, the Commons Speaker who was eulogised when he died last month, was denounced yesterday as "an arrogant, sanctimonious, deceitful and malicious bully".

Sir Robert Rhodes James, the former Tory MP who is a distinguished historian, dismissed the viscount as a fraud and a charlatan, eager to bend the knee to anyone above his station and thinly contemptuous of anyone deemed to be below it.

Sir Robert said that he first came into contact with him when he served as a Commons clerk in the early 1960s. In an article in *The Spectator* Sir Robert

accused the then George Thomas of chairing a standing committee in a dictatorial manner.

Under the headline "Not As Nice As All That", he wrote: "His harshness was directed less at the Members than at the hapless officials; he bawled out the policeman at the door for not closing it on time; he was nasty to the *Household* reporters; he treated me with contemptuous disdain, as did he all officials. Unsurprisingly, we deeply disliked him, regarding him as an arrogant, sanctimonious, deceitful and malicious bully."

Sir Robert said that when he became MP for Cambridge in 1976 Thomas's attitude to him was transformed. He said: "I had suddenly become important; he earnestly desired me to be his friend;

he called me to speak and intervene in the House with almost embarrassing regularity; his mother, the legendary 'Mam' having died, he felt free to share a glass of whisky with me ... But despite all this, with my memories of how he had been, I viewed him through cautious eyes. I had, after all, a vote, and George was very keen on being re-elected Speaker."

The former MP added that Tonypandy's legendary Welsh charm concealed a vicious streak. His attempt to wreck the career of a senior cleric backfired when he was confronted with a mini-mutiny.

Sir Robert praised his charm and wit, but described him as one of the greatest establishment converts of his time.

Royal image

Continued from page 1
very protective of his wife, and always refers to her as The Queen. She is very loving towards him and refers to him as "Philip".

The artist had a total of six hours of sittings for his 6' by 5' canvas, mostly with his subjects separately, except for an initial joint session in a room in the couple's private apartments at Windsor Castle.

At that first session, the Duke complained of having to sit on "a bloody uncomfortable sofa", but soon entered into the spirit of the engagement, making helpful suggestions and even moving furniture. "The Duke is naturally bad-tempered, but I think he realises it is part of his charm. In repose, he is

'Soft' sentence on child molester is overturned

By LIN JENKINS

A CONVICTED child molester had his suspended sentence converted into a 15-month jail term by three Appeal Court judges yesterday to reflect public condemnation of the crime and as a warning to other potential offenders.

Peter Reed, an oil company executive, was not in court and was ordered to surrender himself and be taken to prison.

The judges imposed the sentence after hearing that the Attorney General John Morris had objected that the original 18-month suspended sentence was "too soft" a penalty for

sexually abusing three boys aged between six and 11. He acted after the parents of the victims, who were friends of Reed's, own three children, said they were furious that he should be free when classified as a continuing risk to children.

Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, said there were no exceptional circumstances to justify the lenient sentence.

"The public rightly and strongly condemn offences of this kind," he said. "Parents are entitled to look to the courts for effective protection

and that means that sentences imposed on those who transgress as seriously as this must involve a clear punitive element which doesn't exist when the offender is free to continue his ordinary life."

It is necessary to mark the public condemnation of such offences by a sentence of imprisonment both to punish the offender and deter others. Sentences must have a clear punitive element."

Reed, 44, of Sevenoaks, Kent, molested the children when they came to play with his own three children.

Paedophile ban

Continued from page 1
erode the "bedrock of British justice", namely, the presumption of innocence.

The measures would close a loophole in the recently introduced Sex Offenders Act which requires only sex offenders released after September 1 to register their names and addresses with the police. It does not carry any powers to force offenders to modify their behaviour once free.

The proposals were being viewed yesterday as an attempt by the Government to regain public confidence after a spate of vigilante attacks in which communities took the law into their own hands and drove sex offenders, as well as innocent people, from their homes.

In Aberdeen, the public hysteria resulted in riots. In Stirling, in February, mobs gathered outside an offender's home and police officers had to be called to escort him to safety. Similar scenes also occurred recently in Swindon in Wiltshire.

Community safety orders would be effective in cases such as that of Robert Oliver, 43, a convicted paedophile and killer who was released last month after serving eight years of a 10-year sentence.

He has since been driven from his home in Swindon and has stayed in four other addresses. He is now in a police safe house in Brighton, but is not covered by any statutory parole guidelines or supervisor.

Saudi sentence

Lucille McLaughlin, one of the British nurses accused of the murder of an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia, will receive no more than five years in jail after the agreement by the victim's brother to waive the death sentence and accept £750,000 instead.

Ghazi al-Gosai, the Saudi Ambassador to Britain, said yesterday.

Gas poisoning

Florence Nightingale may have been a victim of untreated carbon monoxide poisoning, according to a medical pressure group, which claims that modern GPs are still grossly misdiagnosing the illness. A study published by CO Support says that out of 77 sufferers, only one was initially diagnosed correctly. Cases were mistaken for flu.

Princess Diana survivor freed from dama

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Mother pleads for help to trap road rage killer

Police seeking the driver who rammed a car, killing two young lovers, are checking film from speed cameras

POLICE hunting the driver who is said to have rammed the back of a young couple's vehicle, forcing them off the road to their deaths, yesterday released details of the car they were seeking.

The registration plate begins with KS and the vehicle is described as a white or light-coloured saloon.

The investigation into the deaths ten days ago of Toby Exley, 22, and his girlfriend, Karen Martin, 20, has been taken over by murder squad detectives. They are looking at film from traffic speed cameras along the A316 in southwest London, known as the Great Chertsey Road.

The families of the couple called for witnesses or anyone who knows the identity of the driver to contact them.

Miss Martin's mother, Kay, said: "There must be someone out there who knows who this maniac is. This man is likely to do this again and he needs to be stopped. We want to prevent another family feeling the utter devastation that we're feeling now."

Mr Exley's brother, Robin, 19, said: "Toby has had his life stolen from him, and me and my brother Ben have had Toby stolen from us."

The person who did this should be stopped and they should stop and think about our family and Karen's family. Anyone out there could be victim of this person."

The crash took place on October 6 but police only released details on Wednesday evening after a witness came forward to tell how the car had pushed the young couple's vehicle off the road.



A young Karen on holiday in Florida

The saloon car is said to have come up behind the couple's Ford Fiesta in the fast lane heading westwards at Haworth at about 8.50 pm. The driver became impatient with their speed and rammed into the back of their car three times.

Mr Exley could not move into the slow lane because of traffic but moved to the right of the fast lane to let the saloon pass. The saloon then hit him again, catching the left hand rear of his car and forcing her to veer right into the wooden

central reservation. A motorcyclist who saw the incident stopped near the crash and told police what he had seen. But traffic police could not find anyone to verify the story. This week they mounted road checks on the A316 at the time of the accident and two motorists backed up the motorcyclist's story.

Toby Exley was a chef and Miss Martin worked for an advertising agency.

Apart from the description of the saloon from the witness, scientists have also examined the wrecked Fiesta and found signs of ramming. Paint scrapings will help police to identify the saloon.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that other drivers must have seen the incident and launched a new appeal for witnesses. The police want to find other drivers who may have had difficulties with the saloon that night. Garages are being asked to report any suspicious body work repairs.

Police have started gathering film from speed cameras and the closed-circuit television cameras which monitor traffic on the A316. The road leads on to the M3 and cameras on the motorway will also be checked. Eventually police may widen their search even further and ask other forces to help.

Mrs Martin, 54, said: "He must have driven like that before. Someone must have seen the damage to the front of his car and he must now be acting differently. The slightest bit of information could be crucial — and could help save someone else's life. There must be some poor soul out there who is going to get it from him again."

Mrs Martin added: "They were such lovely people, a beautiful couple. We felt marriage was definitely on the cards, although it had not actually been spoken about. There is no way that Toby would have taken any chances with Karen in the car as he was too much in love with her to put her in any danger. He was immensely sensible."

Anyone with information should contact the police incident room on (0181) 2476377 or 2476343.

A recent photograph of Karen Martin and Toby Exley

Detectives suspended over drug allegations

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TWO detectives from a squad running a zero-tolerance crime policy have been suspended after allegations that they gave heroin to drug-addict prisoners in exchange for confessions.

A third officer with the Cleveland force has been given a final warning about his conduct. The detectives, based at Middlesbrough on Teesside, are also accused of beating up suspects.

They are part of the CID, controlled by Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon, who advocates the zero-tolerance policy of not allowing even the most minor offence to go unchallenged. He has pledged to resign if crime in the town was not reduced by 20 per cent. His tough stance has achieved national celebrity and has been praised by the Prime Minister and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

Last night Richard Brumstrom, the Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) with Cleveland, confirmed that the Police Complaints Authority had launched an inquiry into the allegations.

Princess crash survivor freed to seek damages

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

TREVOR REES-JONES, sole survivor of the crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed, has become a civil plaintiff in the continuing criminal inquiry into its cause.

The move means that as a party to the case, Mr Rees-Jones, 29, will have access to the police file on the investigation and will be able to seek damages from whoever is found to be responsible for the crash.

Under French law, Mr Rees-Jones, a bodyguard employed by Dodi Fayed, cannot now be interviewed by French magistrates or police without the presence of his lawyer.

The accident on August 31 left Mr Rees-Jones with serious face and chest injuries and partial amnesia. He was flown back to Britain earlier this month after two interviews with French police in which he said that he could not remember the crucial seconds immediately before the crash.

A medical examination ordered by Hervé Stephan, the investigating magistrate, has concluded that the type of amnesia from which Mr Rees-Jones suffers is rarely reversible.

Branson ready to fly again

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON is planning to spend Christmas Day in a hot-air balloon 30,000ft up on his third attempt to circumnavigate the globe.

The millionaire adventurer told a London press conference yesterday that the Virgin team had ironed out the faults which brought down the *Global Challenger* down to earth less than 24 hours after take-off

from Marrakesh last year. The Virgin boss has spent the past nine months analysing flight data from the capsule which was retrieved from Algeria where it came to grief.

Mr Branson said: "We believe we have worked out what went wrong and that we now have equipment that will succeed."

The balloon was forced to land only 20 hours into the flight. Now information on temperature, pressure and attitude has been analysed with

the results used to create computer models capable of plotting the behaviour of future flights.

The attempt will begin around December 1 again in Marrakesh. Mr Branson will be joined by his long-term partners, Piers Lindstrand and Rory McCarthy, with supplies for a Christmas Day lunch.

Mr Branson's is one of four teams bidding to become the first to circumnavigate the world non-stop.



Danielle Haskell worked for Manchester airport and Britannia Airways

Police camera catches disabled woman walking

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A FORMER ballerina, whose plight touched the heart of thousands when she was confined to a wheelchair, has been filmed by a police spy camera walking unaided.

Danielle Haskell, 33, was voted Oldham Woman of the Year in 1993 for the wholehearted way she fought her disability, helping to raise thousands of pounds for charity with parachute jumps and wheelchair pushes.

Her carers were last night coming to terms with the revelation that Ms Haskell, who lives in a specially-equipped flat for the disabled, in Oldham, Greater Manchester, can walk 12

years after she became paralysed from the waist down.

The camera is understood to have caught her on foot in her ground floor flat in Coldhurst, owned by a housing association in Oldham.

The secret video camera was set up to discover who was causing damage inside her flat. Ms Haskell complained to police that she was being stalked and, in one short spell last month, almost a hundred 999 calls were made from her flat.

Ms Haskell told police that her flat had been broken into, but police have so far found no evidence of an intruder.

Superintendent Dick Crawshaw said: "We acted in

Miss Haskell's best interests

by offering her advice and then setting up surveillance outside her home. We were surprised to find she could walk."

Ms Haskell became paralysed in 1985 after she complained of numbness in her legs as she was about to take up a dancing job in Greece. Since then she has become a well known figure locally.

In 1992 she took part in a wheelchair push to Hull. She worked at Manchester International Airport in an advisory capacity to help the airport cater for disabled people.

The role led to a similar unpaid post with Britannia Airways. She said at the time "I absolutely love doing this work. I find I am able to relate more easily to the disabled more easily than able-bodied people." A year later she became Woman of the Year.

Ms Haskell refused to come to the door of her flat yesterday. She said through the security intercom: "I have been told by my solicitor not to talk to anyone."

A spokesman for social services said that Ms Haskell has been in receipt of housing and other benefits. A police spokesman said: "It is anticipated that in the near future the occupant of the premises will be interviewed by the police."

"...best little PC."

—Bye, 4/97, P. Wayner

"Gorgeous."

—What Video & TV, 6/97, B. Fox

"...innovations galore..."

—Mobile Computing, 12/96, M. Campanelli

"Damn fast."

—The Paperless Office, 2/97, N. Ballard

"...better than sex!"

—Modern Living, 7/97, N. Lam



(Okay, so we made the last one up.)

PHILIPS

Let's make things better.

Mother denied custody over judge's 'shock' at naked couple

A MOTHER who lost custody of her children because they had seen her and her fiancé naked won a rehearing yesterday after two Court of Appeal judges criticised the judge for allowing himself to be "shocked".

The 37-year-old woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, lost a battle for the children with her estranged husband in June this year. She was defeated, the Court of Appeal was told, after a county court judge heard that she and the man she plans to marry had allowed their children — a boy aged 9 and a girl aged 6 — to see them naked and shared baths with them.

Yesterday, overturning the order by Judge James Wigmore and ordering a re-hearing of the custody battle, Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said: "The judge appears to have allowed his *insensitive* reaction to the uninhibited behaviour of this couple and their lack of recognition of others' attitudes to override everything else in this case."

Judges should not allow themselves to be shocked. They can be disapproving but they must not allow themselves to be shocked. He was plainly wrong.

"These are perfectly decent, respectable people. They may have been unwise but there was nothing to suggest the children were at any risk of abuse."

During yesterday's hearing the mother's counsel, Paul Storey, said the children's father, with whom they had been living after the marriage broke down in 1996, had reported his estranged wife and her boyfriend to social services and police when the children mentioned seeing them naked. Social workers

Woman wins new hearing after Court of Appeal criticises ruling, reports Frances Gibb

had questioned the boy and, in view of the father's reaction, advised the mother not to let the children see them naked again or to share baths. Both police and the social workers felt no further action was necessary and the couple promised to follow their advice.

But the father refused to allow the youngsters to stay with their mother and when the custody hearing came up in June he argued that the children should not live with her because of the nudity and communal bathing.

Judge Wigmore accepted there had been no question of child abuse and accepted the mother and her boyfriend's

promise not to repeat the nudity or the bathing was in good faith, but he awarded custody to the father, commenting that he had known of children being taken into care for less and he found the attitude of social services "stagnant".

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, one of the country's most experienced family law judges, said yesterday she had never come across such a case and she doubted Judge Wigmore had. "To be thoughtful and indiscreet does not raise a child protection problem. This is not abusive behaviour. I absolutely fail to see how an indiscreet and uninhibited attitude could lead to child protection concerns," she said.

"In a happy, well-run family, how members behave in the privacy of their own home is *their business and no one else's*." However, she added that with the custody battle coming up, the mother and her boyfriend had possibly been careless and indiscreet in view of the father's attitude, although she did not doubt the innocence of their actions.

Speaking outside the court the mother said: "I am just so relieved that they have actually seen the other judge was wrong. I couldn't believe it. It frightened me to death. We thought it was all over after we talked to social services. I didn't think it was going to come up."

"I never thought there was anything wrong in nudity. My children have seen me without any clothes on lots of times. And as for the bath, it was just popping in together for five minutes on a Sunday morning." She added: "It was all so innocent and it became so misconstrued."



Anthea Boyleston of the Bradford team that has examined remains of 29 victims; many died as they fled.

How chivalry died in Roses battle

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MASS grave from the bloodiest battle fought on British soil has dispelled any lingering belief in the chivalry and honour of medieval soldiers.

It has also shown a physical strength among the troops that was far superior to modern man in spite of the comparatively poor diet, stature and health of the period. Archaeologists who examined the remains of 29 victims of the Wars of the Roses battle of Towton in 1461 found that many had suffered a merciless fate.

The engagement which lasted most of the day, left the field awash with blood according to contemporary reports. It ended in a Yorkist victory and secured the throne for Edward IV but up to 25,000 soldiers died.

Far from being a heroic engagement in the style of

More d'Arthur, the conflict involving about 120,000 men was fought mainly by yeoman foot soldiers on a bitter March day. Six hours of hand-to-hand fighting in driving snow and mud ended with the rout of the Lancastrians and bloody retribution.

Christopher Knusel, of Bradford University, who examined the skeletons, said: "People have a view of medieval warfare as being about chivalry, ransoms and people being captured and not killed. But these guys would just beat the hell out of each other and were pretty damn tough. One man had 12 injuries to his head. He had

been mutilated after death. We suspect this was medieval reprisal killing by livery soldiers."

His team was called into the site near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, after it was discovered by workmen building a garage. They found that many of the soldiers were

had been kneeling or lying when they were hit.

The archaeologists found healed earlier injuries showing that the men had survived previous battles. Some skulls bore dents and sword slashes.

Dr Knusel said the soldiers' physical strength was impressive. Some had used longbows requiring twice the pull exerted by today's best archers. He said: "They were very robust fellows, very broad, although not tall."

The bones are likely to be reburied at All Saint's Church, Saxon, near Tadcaster, alongside other previously excavated remains from the battle.

Lawrence Butler, senior lecturer in medieval archaeology at York University, said that not finding any horsemen among the casualties suggested that if the battle was going against them, the upper classes of horsemen would quickly get away.

Woman is urged to sell home to pay for son's fees

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A MOTHER being sued by her son was yesterday urged to sell her home to meet his £400-a-month demand for maintenance to finance his time at university.

Patrick Macdonald, 20, estranged from his mother for almost five years, claimed that his law studies at Aberdeen would suffer if she did not support him and he was forced to work part-time. He refused to take out a student loan — although it was claimed he had been awarded one for £1,685, plus a full grant — because he did not want to get into debt so early in life.

On the second day of the interim hearing at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, Mr Macdonald's solicitor, Martin Burns, rejected his mother's claim that she was struggling to make ends meet on her £45,000 salary as a Scottish Office solicitor.

He said that if Margaret Macdonald, 53, was strapped for cash then she should sell her ten-room home to meet the bills. "If she is worried about maintaining a house of that size, she may wish to consider moving to alternative accommodation," he said.

He also suggested that she could make savings from an "emergency fund" which she dipped into to pay for a summer choral course at Eton for her youngest son who intends to study music professionally. But Mrs Macdonald's solicitor, Jenny Gibbs, said her client wanted to keep the family home to provide some stability for her four other children, for whom she has been the sole provider since her acrimonious divorce in 1994.

Sheriff Daphne Robertson said she would make a written judgment within the next few days on whether Mrs Macdonald should make interim payments pending the full civil hearing next year.

Leading article, page 21

"not for the ordinary"

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PAUL MITCHELL
LUXURY HAIR CARE

Mother fights to keep £1.2m award for birth blunder

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A MOTHER awarded compensation of about £500,000 because a health authority failed to warn her that her pregnancy could kill her is fighting to uphold the award after a challenge by the authority.

Mr Justice Astill ruled in May this year that the mother was entitled to claim the full cost of rearing her daughter from Croydon Health Authority. The woman has been diagnosed as suffering from a

potentially deadly heart condition.

The decision, reached in the High Court in London, was the first to allow a mother compensation for the cost of rearing a child born from a planned pregnancy. Similar cases in the past have allowed damages for the cost of unwanted children, usually the result of failed sterilisation operations.

But yesterday the ground-breaking award was under attack from Croydon authority, which was ruled liable for compensation. Lawyers for the authority are urging the

Court of Appeal to overturn Mr Justice Astill's decision, claiming he was mistaken in law. Adrian Whifford QC, said the 39-year-old mother, a qualified nurse, should not receive a penny towards bringing up her daughter, now almost 8, or for the depression she suffered on learning she was unlikely to survive long enough to see her child grow up.

The High Court had been told that the mother, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had undergone a medical examination ar-

ranged by Croydon Health Authority in 1988 after applying for a post at one of its hospitals.

She was passed fit for work and took up the job, but the doctor who examined her had failed to spot signs that she had primary pulmonary hypertension. The next year the woman, who had previously miscarried twins, and her husband, decided to try for another baby.

Their hopes were rewarded but in the later stages of her pregnancy she developed breathlessness so severe

that she had to be flown back from a holiday abroad for hospital treatment. Only then was her heart condition spotted. The mother was told she might not survive the pregnancy because the strain on her heart had exacerbated the condition. If she did survive, she was told, her life expectancy would be between five and ten years.

Although she survived the birth, in November 1989, and her condition had improved to the point that she might live another 20 years, she is still too ill to give her daughter the

care she would have been able to. Her lawyers had argued that she was entitled to the full cost of rearing her daughter, for although she was a wanted baby, her mother would never have allowed herself to become pregnant if she had been warned of her heart condition.

But the authority, while admitting its original medical examination of the mother had been negligent, claims her pregnancy was not a foreseeable loss and that she should not receive damages stemming from it. The hearing continues.

Search for child goes on despite man being charged

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE search for a boy who vanished five months ago will go on despite the court appearance of a man charged with abducting him, detectives said yesterday.

James Lewis, 3, disappeared from his home in Higher Openshaw, Manchester, on Bank Holiday Monday in May. Greater Manchester Police launched an extensive investigation but failed to find the boy. Detectives are now convinced he has been dead for some time.

Darren Vickers, 27, who was arrested on Tuesday at an address in Stockport, appeared at Manchester City Magistrates' Court yesterday accused of kidnapping the child. He was remanded in custody for eight days.

Detective Superintendent Roy Rainford, who is heading the investigation, insisted that the hunt for the missing boy did not stop with the court appearance. "I want to remind everyone that this inquiry has been active for 22 weeks. For the majority of that time it has been conducted as a murder inquiry, and that murder inquiry continues. I would like you to remember that Jamie Lewis has not been seen by family and friends since May 5 this year. I need to find Jamie and so he can be returned to his family and allowed to rest in peace."

Mr Rainford issued a fresh appeal to people to search their memories "even if it means searching their consciences" for fresh information about the boy's whereabouts.

Jamie went missing after he was grounded by his parents for staying out late. Later, security cameras caught him wandering alone on a deserted Piccadilly station platform before catching a bus to Ashton-under-Lyne.

In June, officers combed undergrowth in Bogart Hole Clough park at Blackley after tip-off that the boy was buried there. Nothing was found.

Jamie's parents have made numerous public appeals for anybody who knows what happened to their son to come forward.

Doctor tells how he battled to halt baby operations

Professor says no

one took notice
of his warnings
about number
of deaths, writes

Ian Murray

had been told with colleagues, including James Wisheart, 59, the medical director, and Janardan Dhasmana, 57, the consultant surgeon who was carrying out the switch operations. He also saw John Roylance, 67, the chief executive of the trust, on a number of occasions to raise his concerns about the death rate.

All three doctors have denied serious professional misconduct. The two surgeons are charged with continuing to perform cardiac surgery on babies even though they knew that their mortality rates during these operations were well above the national average. Dr Roylance, as chief executive, is charged with failing to use his authority to stop the operations.

Dr Angelini, 44, said he thought the best way to resolve the problem was to appoint a new paediatric cardiac surgeon, "to bring new blood into the department". He said his various meetings got nowhere.

The hearing continues on Monday.



Deborah Eappen, mother of baby Matthew, being cross-examined by Andrew Good, the lead defence lawyer

Au pair 'hated dead boy's parents'

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

LOUISE WOODWARD, the British au pair charged with murdering a nine-month-old boy in her care, "hated" the baby's parents and thought that Matthew Eappen and his two-year-old brother were "spoilt brats", the court in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was told yesterday.

Kathleen Sorabella, who spoke to Miss Woodward regularly in a Boston theatre queue for return tickets to the musical *Rent*, said that Miss Woodward told her that she intensely disliked working at the home of Sunil and Deborah Eappen, the parents of Matthew. Mrs Sorabella, 30,

who befriended Miss Woodward in the queue for *Rent*, which she had seen 40 times and Miss Woodward more than 40, described her first conversation with the au pair: "She said that the parents were very demanding, that she didn't like them. They told her that they had a curfew and she didn't like that."

The witness, who is a mature student at a Boston college, continued: "She said she was tired all day, that she'd change a diaper in the morning and then leave them in all day. She said she'd go to sleep during the day." Mrs Sorabella continued: "She

hated it ... the job. She referred to the baby as a brat. She called the boys spoilt, fussy." Later, under cross-examination, she said: "I can't recall if she hated the children. But she definitely hated the parents."

Andrew Good, Miss Woodward's defence attorney, who had earlier looked ill at ease when cross-examining Matthew's mother, called into question Mrs Sorabella's reliability as a witness. Mrs Sorabella had a "history of misrepresentation", he said. He cited as examples "deliberate misstatements" she had made to a car leasing firm. The trial continues.

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Irish favourite keeps brains under wraps

TWO weeks from today, a little-known Belfast law professor is expected to become Ireland's first northern President after one of the republic's more curious elections.

Mary McAleese, the 46-year-old Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University, can stand for the Irish presidency but may not vote, as she lives outside the republic. If elected, she would need the Government's permission to go home, as it would involve leaving the country. In addition, because the presidency is strictly above politics — it's only real powers being to refer legislation to the Supreme Court or to refuse to dissolve the Dail — the campaign is issue-free. It is similar to having an election for the Queen of England.

The only hint of controversy has been a rival's charge that Dr McAleese is a covert Sinn Fein sympathiser. She has dismissed this as nonsense but could have done without an unsolicited endorsement from Gerry Adams yesterday.

There are four women candidates and one male. Unable to promise tax cuts or better

A Belfast professor is likely to win the presidential race that has become a beauty contest, says Martin Fletcher

schools, each is vying to prove that she or he is the spiritual successor of the caring, sharing, all-embracing Mary Robinson. It is a campaign filled with buzzwords such as "compassion", "openness" and "reaching out".

It has become a glorified beauty contest, almost literally. Many column inches have been devoted to the candidates' wardrobes and hairstyles, and my Dublin taxi driver planned to vote for Dr McAleese because "she's the best-looking bird".

Dr McAleese is certainly a striking figure, but it is her formidable intellect that has propelled her from a Roman Catholic ghetto in Belfast to the brink of Ireland's presidency. She is the eldest of nine children and a publican's daughter.

She studied law at Queen's

and, at the age of 24, succeeded Mrs Robinson as Reid Professor of Criminal Law at Trinity College, Dublin. She married, had three children, worked briefly as an RTE television presenter, then shocked Ulster's Protestant establishment by beating David Trimble, now the Ulster Unionist Party leader, for the directorship of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies at Queen's.

Last month, in an even greater shock, Ireland's ruling Fianna Fail party ditched Albert Reynolds, the former Taoiseach, and gave its presidential nomination to the much more dynamic Dr McAleese. She was not even a party member.

Dr McAleese is a woman of strong convictions. She is a staunch anti-abortion Catholic and an enthusiastic national-

ist whose critics call her combative and abrasive. None of those attributes was on display during a day spent hawking round the pretty market towns of Tipperary this week. Her intellect, as one commentator put it, been put on "work to rule".

She celebrated World Rural Women's Day at an agricultural development centre, lunched at a police training school, toured workshops for disadvantaged youth and the mentally handicapped, and addressed a crowd in the square at Thurles and a rally at a traditional Irish arts community in Cashel. She promised a cool head and warm heart, an Ireland in which every person is "utterly valued and utterly respected" and a presidency that reflected a confidence new Ireland rooted in traditional values.

Dr McAleese's rivals are no laggards when it comes to caring and compassion. Mary Banotti, the 58-year-old single mother who is the Fine Gael candidate, was a nurse in North America and Africa before becoming an MEP and

champion of good causes. She is the grand-niece of Michael Collins, the legendary father of the IRA, which gives her a certain cachet.

Adi Roche, the 42-year-old Labour candidate is known as the Angel of Chernobyl for her pioneering work as head of the Chernobyl Children's Project.

Her campaign began poorly when some employees labelled her management style as Stalinist.

Mary McAleese, left, talks to Dilys Barry, right, in a shop at Thurles during her whistlestop tour of Tipperary

when some employees labelled her management style as Stalinist.

She still is Dana, wife and mother, one of the people standing for the people".

Derek Nally, an Independent who will presumably win the misogynist vote by default, is a former police officer who exposed wrongdoing in the Garda and founded a group called Victim Support.

• *Writing on Whitehall* is machine

• *Irish Times* poll gives Dr McAleese 82 per cent support, eight points more than Mary Banotti, with the three others far behind.

Killing uncovers Dublin trade in black prostitutes

BY AUDREY MASSE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH police are clamping down on a growing trade in black prostitutes coming from Britain to offer exotic, to Irishmen.

Asian and African women from Britain are being set up in Dublin's city centre apartments and men, attracted by small ads for "black beauties" and "Asian delights", are paying up £150 an hour for their services, six times more than they would for an Irish prostitute.

One senior source said: "It is very difficult because these women want to leave as few traces as possible. They come over here, work for a week, then vanish. They go home, have a rest and come back again. The only people they know are their pimps and the other English women doing the same thing."

The Gardai are still interviewing British and Irish prostitutes to try to trace men with a history of violence against prostitutes, an increasing number of whom are drug addicts. Surveys show, however, that only about 40 per cent of the estimated 600 prostitutes working in Dublin report violence or threats by clients, rendering it likely that the killer will never be found.

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Labour must put national need before party interests

The Blair Government is challenging the traditional workings of Whitehall in ways that Margaret Thatcher never did. That tension underlies the simmering discontent among many senior civil servants about the way policy is made and presented.

The departure of eight heads of information since the election is a symptom of this malaise, but it is only part of a broader story. Labour came into office determined to implement the same tight discipline that it applied so successfully in opposition.

That involved a closed style of policymaking in which decisions were taken by a tight circle round the offices of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Other spokesmen were in-

volved when necessary. New policy initiatives were leaked/leaked, often on an unattributable and thus deniable basis, without any real collective discussion. These habits have been transferred to office.

The culture of government is different, relying on deliberation, consultation and acceptance that Parliament should be informed first. So Whitehall eyebrows have been raised when — as was shown in the television documentary about Mr Brown and the Treasury ten days ago — policy is decided by a small, largely political group and selected journalists are briefed on the details.

Some permanent secretaries have complained about the recent leaking to Sunday newspapers of the proposed "fire" on the Defence Minis-

try and transfer of the money to the NHS budget.

That is more important than the friction with information officers, where the arguments are mixed.

Labour's complaint that many information officers had become too passive and reactive is partly justified.

Some became worn down by the battles of the late Major years, leaving Tory ministers exposed. Alastair Campbell was right to argue recently that heads of information should be involved from the start in the development and design of policy.

Some heads of information had

been long-serving and, in some cases, long in the tooth. So changes were inevitable, indeed desirable. But eight departures is more than a coincidence.

Jonathan Haslam, in Downing Street for the end of the Major era and at the Education Department since the election, was at pains yesterday to stress his good relations with David Blunkett and the attractions of his new job in the City. But in other cases there have been personality clashes as ministers and advisers have openly criticised press officers.

Problems have emerged over the

and party, between the fair and impartial presentation of policy and advancing Labour's interests. Some ministers and their advisers, whose only experience has been in opposition, seem unaware of this distinction and have expected press officers to operate as Labour's press officers did before the election.

In the past, an informal division of labour has existed between the Government Information Service explaining decisions and special advisers to ministers providing the partisan "spin" which civil servants cannot and should not do.

The lines can never be precise and it makes sense for Mr Campbell and others in Downing Street to become special advisers rather than civil servants, as their predecessors were.

Sir Robin Butler, the outgoing head of the Home Civil Service, has set up a review on the work of information officers, and the issue should be examined by the Public Administration Committee of the Commons, which is shortly to decide its programme. A new concordat is needed if charges of politicisation are to be answered.

After complaining for so long about the way the Tories ran Whitehall, Labour needs to understand that the interests of Government and party are not always the same. The job of civil servants is to ensure that the Government is successful, not that Labour is re-elected.

PETER RIDDELL

Ethics watchdog a veteran of press conduct

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE appointment yesterday of Sir Patrick Neill, QC, to succeed Lord Nolan as the public standards watchdog, marked the end of a determined search to find a prominent legal figure who was independent of party politics.

It is understood that his name was put forward by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg. Sir Patrick, who will become a life peer, will receive £500 a day for the post as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. He expects to work two or three days a week over 40 weeks.

Sir Patrick has spoken out against the growing power of the European Court of Justice, but his Eurosceptic views were deemed irrelevant to the post. He has tasted controversy, during his chairmanship of the Press Council, which was accused by the late Sir James Goldsmith, in an open letter to 120 MPs, of impugning the impartiality of the council.

Sir James claimed that the council had decided in favour of a Granada employee who worked on *World in Action* at a time when Sir Patrick had represented the television company and programme in a legal action.

A devout Anglican and family man, Sir Patrick has been married to Caroline for 43 years and they had six children. One, Matthew, a barrister in his 20s, was killed in a car crash four years ago.

Sir Patrick was the first chairman of the Council for the Securities Industry and was asked by Margaret Thatcher to lead an inquiry into regulation at Lloyd's.

He is an independent director of Times Newsprint Holdings.



Sir Patrick: lawyer and churchman

Writing on wall for Whitehall press machine

Angry ministers are giving civil servants a rough ride over their publicity failures, writes Andrew Pierce

WITHIN hours of Tony Blair's new Cabinet ministers taking office a purge of the upper echelons of the Whitehall information service was inevitable. The Prime Minister's publicity-hungry lieutenants had a rude awakening from the election victory.

They had anticipated a seamless transition to the front pages of the media anxious for their first ministerial pronouncements. It was not to be.

They protested bitterly, privately and increasingly publicly, about the Government Information Service which for two decades had worked in relative harmony with the previous Tory administration.

The Labour Party in Opposition regarded the Tories' public relations operation with contempt. On May 2 they discovered why it was so poor.

The first to complain was Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, who called his Whitehall press team "together after one dismal press conference. He bawled them out and complained he had never been so badly prepared. In Harriet Harman's south London home, Sunday morning breakfast became an unhappy experience as stories which the Social Security Secretary felt she should have featured in or at least known about were spread over the front pages.

It was a far cry from Opposition. At the first scent of trouble the media monitoring unit at Millbank Tower, the fiefdom of Peter Mandelson, Labour's high priest of

spin, would alert the party leadership.

Each Shadow Cabinet member would be paged. The politician most involved would be tracked down, told the line to take, and what to expect in the first editions of *daily or Sunday newspapers*.

In Government the early warning system failed to operate. Ministers complained about being telephoned by journalists for reactions to stories they had not been told were breaking. Used to being

“The unit has been dubbed the Ministry of Truth by sceptical civil servants”

told in advance who was on forthcoming news programmes, they despaired at discovering the briefing note in their red boxes when they returned home the same night — often 12 hours later.

The first to fall foul of the new regime was Andy Wood, the veteran director of information at the Northern Ireland Office who modelled himself on Bernard Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's press secretary.

Mr Wood compounded his sins in the eyes of the new administration by going on holiday during the Loyalist

marching season. He was told bluntly: “There is a lack of personal chemistry with Dr Mowbray [Mr Mowbray, the Northern Ireland Secretary].” Mr Wood, a veteran of 14 years for the NIO, was given

garden leave.

Liz Drummond, the veteran head of the Scottish Office, was also an early casualty. Relations had never been good with Michael Forsyth, the Tory incumbent, but her hopes of a renaissance under the new administration rapidly evaporated.

Ms Drummond clashed with Brian Wilson, the minister of state, a journalist by profession, who insisted on writing all his own press releases.

She complained bitterly to journalists that she could not reveal policy decisions without first referring to Downing Street. She took the flak for the initial bumpy ride for the “Yes-Yes” campaign for the Scottish Parliament.

By the end of the first month anonymous briefings began to appear in the media about ministerial disillusionment with the GIs. Mike Granatt, its head told a meeting of department heads that a drastic action was needed to counter the impression that they were not matching the skills of the Millbank army.

It came two weeks later. Whitehall was ordered to set up a media monitoring unit modelled on Labour's slick public relations operation. In a ground-breaking initiative press officers seconded from each government department

Mr Brown's personal press officer in Opposition. She made little attempt to conceal her feelings at her leaving party when she declared: “Just like the Princess of Wales this marriage was getting a little crowded.”

By the beginning of July anonymous briefings began to appear in the media about ministerial disillusionment with the GIs. Mike Granatt is officially in charge, but Mr Blair's chief press adviser Alastair Campbell is taking a keen interest. It was another famous victory for the Labour propaganda team.

But still the purge continued. In the same week it was disclosed that the information department at the Ministry of Defence was being restructured. Gill Samuel, the head for five years, was moved internally. It emerged days later that George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, had complained bitterly to colleagues and Labour officials that he had become the “forgotten man of British politics”.

One of the most bitter departures was Steve Reardon, director of information at Social Security for 10 years, who was told Ms Harman had lost confidence in him. His exit came days after the press was briefed by her officials that she intended to take the full Cabinet minis-

ter's pay rise last month. But halfway through the night Ms Harman changed her mind. He went within days.

At the end of September Mr Campbell vented the frustration of Cabinet ministers in a letter circulated to all Whitehall press offices. It was typically blunt warning to “raise their game”.

Jonathan Haslam became the biggest fish to fall foul of the new regime yesterday after a clash with Stephen Byers, the Minister for School Standards. Many of the ones who have gone, or the others who fear they could be next, envy Richard Lehner, a chief press officer at the Welsh office, who was close to William Hague when he was Welsh Secretary and moved on at the election.

He saw the writing on the wall and quit before he was pushed.

This Saturday, we promise you'll have more to say than Jimmy Hill.

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RSPCA demands ban on use of deadly driftnets

THE RSPCA called yesterday for a ban on the use of driftnets by British fishermen, saying that they were devastating marine life. Species of dolphin, whales, leatherback turtle and blue shark were among those being brought close to extinction by the nets, which trapped fish by their gills and left them to die. It said.

While most European countries have banned drifters, Britain, Ireland and France still use them in the northeast Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean to catch tuna and swordfish. The RSPCA wants a full ban before the start of the fishing season next year.

At the launch of an RSPCA report on drifters, John Baker, a marine expert from Liverpool University, said that the fish died slow and agonising deaths, while those that escaped lived with terrible injuries or were doomed to an eventual lingering death.

"They die from a process known as dry drowning. Their larynx closes so they are unable to inhale water, and asphyxiate. It can take hours before death occurs, especially with larger species," Dr Baker said.

"We know they often struggle violently from the amount of net that gets caught round their bodies, which can result in terrible injuries. We have

Dolphins and whales are among species devastated by 'barbaric' practice, reports Kathryn Knight

studies of British and French drift net vessels showed that dolphins and porpoises were being caught in potentially unsustainable numbers.

Research on more than 27 per cent of the French fleet revealed they had caught 48 species unintentionally, including five types of whale, four species of dolphin and two species of turtle.

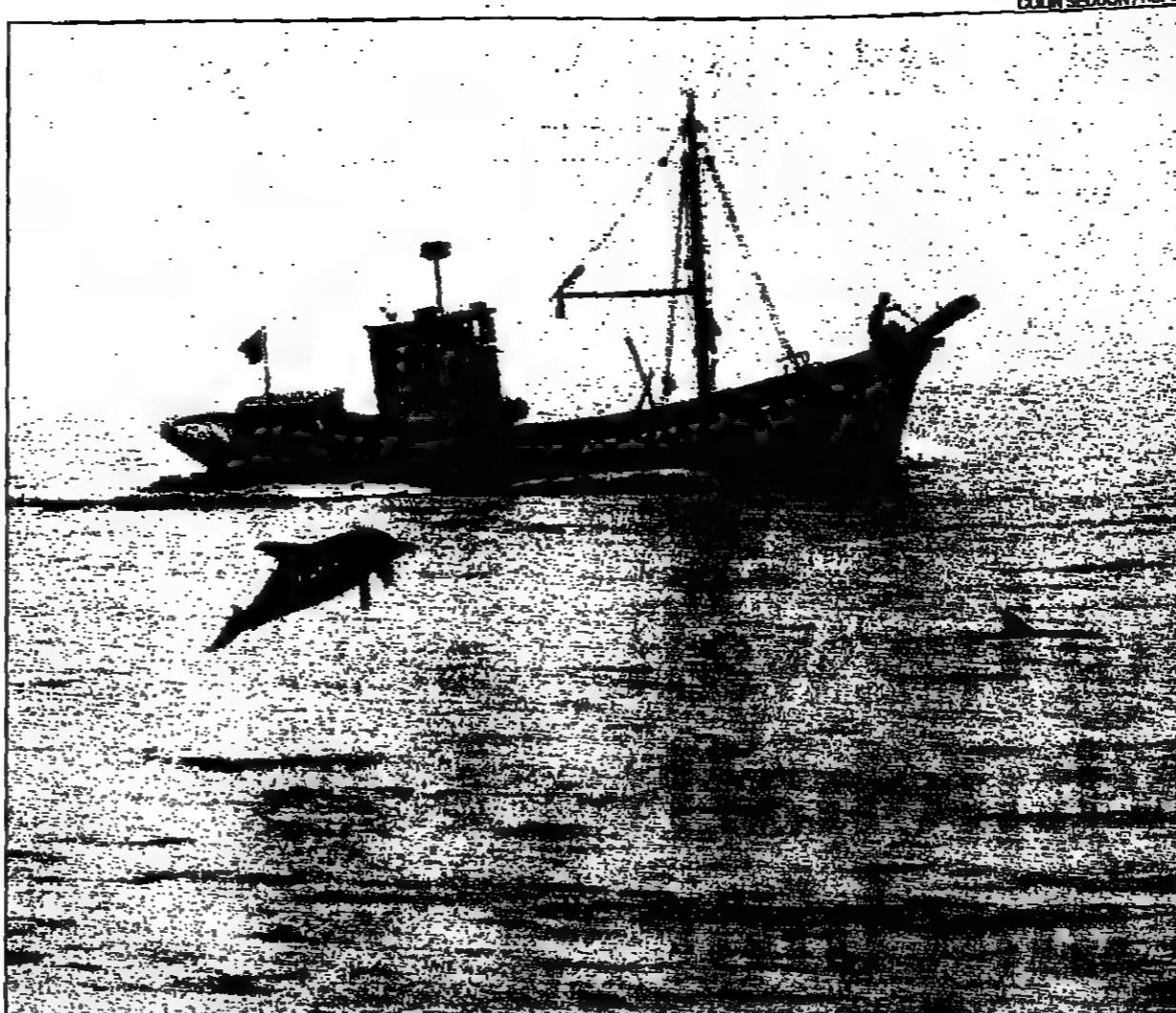
"It is devastating in terms of environmental welfare," Ms McLachlan said. "The striped dolphin, which lives in the northeast Atlantic, is threatened with extinction if drift netting continues."

She agreed that fishermen would have to be compensated but said there were more targeted methods that could prove more economic. The launch of the report was attended by the Labour MP Ian Cawsey, who has asked the Fisheries Minister Elliot Morley to support a ban when European counterparts meet this month.

seen dolphin and other fish with broken bones, broken beaks and severe cuts to their head, flippers and dorsal fin. Those who escape live with the lingering pain of these terrible injuries, if we could see this taking place in front of our eyes, such a method of slaughter would be considered barbaric torture."

Helen McLachlan, senior wildlife officer for the RSPCA, said that while the length of drift nets had been restricted to 2.5 kilometres since 1992, this was enough to devastate the marine population. "Only total prohibition is the answer," she said.

Drift nets, known as "walls of death", are placed near the surface to catch fish found in the open seas, such as herring, mackerel and pilchard. The synthetic material used means the nets are invisible to other marine life too. Independent



Dolphins leaping near a fishing vessel. Drift nets are invisible to them and other creatures, such as whales

Coral reefs being ruined by sewage and over-fishing

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

HUMAN activity is destroying coral reefs all over the world, the first global survey has shown.

Once-common species such as lobsters are now rare, while edible cucumbers and fish such as groupers are also declining. Many reefs show evidence of damage, with broken coral and the growth of algae fed by sewage.

The survey was carried out by 100 marine scientists and 750 recreational divers, who surveyed more than 250 reefs in 30 countries between June 15 and August 31 this year. The divers were asked to look out for easily-recognisable species such as the lobster or the humpback wrasse, to give an indication of the effect of fishing.

First results of the study, Reef Check 1997, show that lobsters once abundant on reefs throughout the world,

were absent from 81 per cent of the reefs studied. From 179 reefs in the Indian and Pacific oceans, only 25 lobsters were found, and 11 of those were at a single reef in an Indonesian marine reserve.

Elizabeth Wood of the Marine Conservation Society said that no lobsters were found in the Seychelles. "Valuable shells such as the giant triton have also been over-collected as souvenirs." The results of the project were released yesterday at a Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Gregor Hodgson, the co-ordinator, said:

"Coral reefs are the rainforests of the sea. They are... a storehouse of billions of dollars worth of genetic material for drugs and an important factor in coastal protection. They are a tourist attraction for seven million sport divers and a source of food."



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Rarely
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Turkey accused after air scare

Nicosia: Athens accused Turkey of Cold War tactics yesterday after a military transport plane carrying the Greek Defence Minister was buzzed by Turkish warplanes over the Aegean for the second time in three days (Michael Theodoulou writes). Akis Tsahatzopoulos was on his way to Crete from Cyprus where he had been watching over joint war-games by Greek and Greek Cypriot forces which Turkey had branded a 'provocation'.

Greek journalists travelling with him said the C130 Hercules shuddered violently in the slipstream of four Turkish F16s, reportedly chased away by eight Greek F16s. 'Mr Tsahatzopoulos's first comment was that Turkey was now employing Cold War tactics,' a Defence Ministry official said. Greece has accused Turkey of massive airspace violations in recent days.

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Jews held in inquiry on bomb supply to Arabs

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

TEN Jewish residents of Jerusalem have been arrested for allegedly supplying explosives to Palestinians for use in terrorist attacks against Jewish targets in Israel and the occupied territories.

Israeli security sources said that the case was one of the biggest of its kind in which a ring of Jews had been found, apparently, supplying weapons to Palestinian extremists to enable them to continue their terror campaign designed to sabotage the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

A Palestinian journalist from the occupied West Bank, who asked not to be identified, said last night: 'This case is just the tip of the iceberg. It is common knowledge that in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that a great many of the weapons used by Hamas and other militant Palestinian groups are acquired from Jews — either on the criminal black market or from ordinary soldiers who want to make a quick buck.'

The journalist added: 'The Israelis have far greater access to weaponry than the Palestinians and many of those who sell it to the Arabs do not care what it is going to be used for just as long as they get their money. Common items such as an AK-47 assault rifle or a pound of

explosive have a going price which is widely known.' Israelis enjoying the first day of the eight-day Feast of Tabernacles — the annual religious holiday commemorating the 40 years spent in the wilderness by the Jews after their exodus from Egypt — were shocked when news of the police round-up of the Jewish suspects was broadcast by Israeli radio.

The radio disclosed that the ten unnamed Jews being held had been arrested on charges of supplying high explosives and detonators, used legally in construction work in quarries, to the report described as 'hostile elements'.

The radio report said that when the suspects were arrested they were in possession of a haul of 440lb of explosives, 55 detonators and large quantities of detonator caps, which it is alleged they were preparing to sell to Palestinians, who were not publicly identified.

Police investigators believe that the ring sold explosives obtained from quarries both inside Israel and in the West Bank to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

They are linking the arrests of the suspected Jewish arms dealers with a haul of explosives made last week just before the onset of Yom Kippur, the annual holy Jewish Day of

Atonement, when two Palestinians from the West Bank city of Hebron were arrested in a car carrying 110lb of hidden explosives, 25 detonators and 15 yards of fuse.

The last arrest of the two Arabs, caught after a car chase and named as Abdül Abu Shefieh, 36, and Yassin Abu Hadid, 23, was one cause of a maximum terrorist alert sounded throughout Israel and the occupied territories over the Yom Kippur period.

One high-ranking police officer told the *Yediot Aharonot* daily newspaper after military censorship that had been imposed on reporting of the car find was lifted: 'The two Palestinians had in their possession an amount of explosives that could have sent the Dizengoff Centre [Tel Aviv's main indoor shopping arcade] sky-high.'

The alleged uncovering of such a significant Jewish-run arms-supply ring has posed a serious problem for the Israeli prison authorities if the arrested men should receive long sentences.

'They could hardly put them inside with Palestinian terrorists,' the Palestinian journalist said. 'And if they put them among ordinary Israeli criminals, they would probably be torn limb from limb.'



Two Jews handcuffed after their arrest on charges of selling explosives to Palestinians

Greer claims role of mothers 'taken over by business'

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE sexual revolution has desecrated rather than liberated women, Germaine Greer told a writers' festival in her home city of Melbourne.

In what the media called a 'provocative' speech that mixed gender theory, graphic sexual imagery and a touch of prudishness, Ms Greer, 58, said women had become enslaved by a 'penetration culture' that venerated the penis and assaulted the prestige of motherhood.

The author of *The Female Eunuch*, speaking on 'Sex, Angst and the Millennium', added: 'The assault on the prestige of the mother has been more successful than any feminist strategy. Our culture does not think of woman as makers of men. Motherhood is not venerated among us... feminist strategies were co-opted into the marginalisation of the mother, who now functions primarily as a scapegoat.'

She can claim no credit for the successes of her children, but must bear the blame for all of their failures.

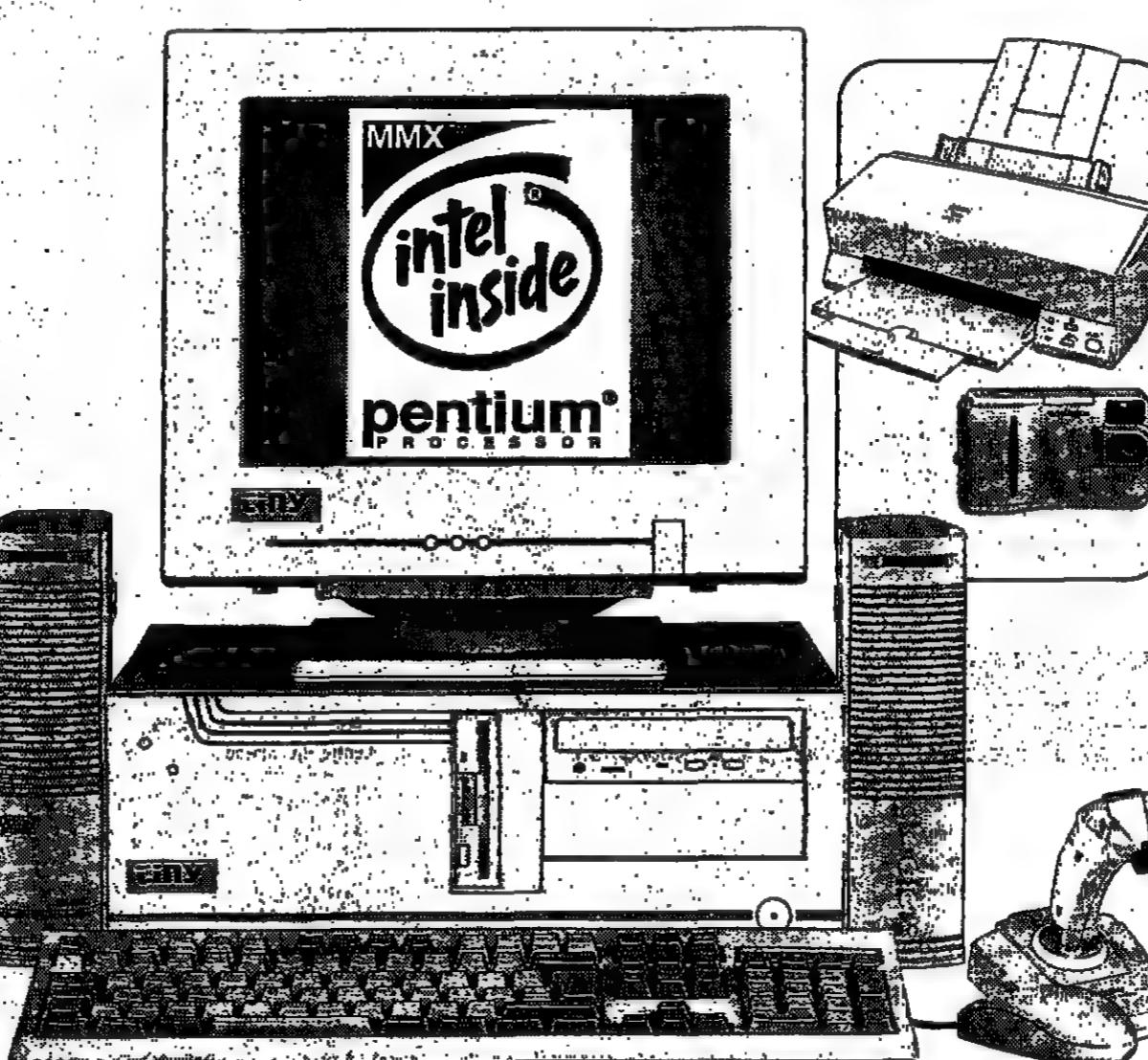
The author of *The Female Eunuch*, speaking on 'Sex, Angst and the Millennium', added: 'The assault on the prestige of the mother has been more successful than any feminist strategy. Our culture does not think of woman as makers of men. Motherhood is not venerated among us... feminist strategies were co-opted into the marginalisation of the mother, who now functions primarily as a scapegoat.'

'Little girls begin learning penetration culture from girls' magazines that tell them how to dress and make themselves up in order to look really sexy.'

The clothing they are supposed to wear emphasises their frail vulnerability and their availability.

'The advertisements in such teen-mags are for clothes, make-up, hair dye, condoms and pregnancy kits. This is the culture that the liberated young women of the 1990s are being inducted into.'

Kitten woman, page 19



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French fugitive wallowing in Bahamas luxury

Former Gaullist official fled bribes inquiry for life in the Caribbean sunshine, writes Ben Macintyre

ONE of France's most wanted men, a former official of President Chirac's Gaullist party implicated in an illegal party-funding scandal, has been traced to Paradise Island in the Bahamas, where he has been living the life of a millionaire for more than two years.

Didier Schuller, former director of public building works in the Hauts-de-Seine regional council outside Paris, vanished in March 1995 after he was questioned by magistrates about alleged bribes for the Gaullist RPR party in exchange for construction contracts. An international arrest warrant was issued for M Schuller on charges of influence-peddling and misuse of public funds. He has been on the run since, though reportedly sighted in Israel, Argentina, Austria, Switzerland, Africa, the United States and even Paris.

Le Nouvel Observateur magazine tracked down M Schuller this week to the Bahamas, where he had taken luxurious refuge with his wife and two children under the assumed name Delavalle. On October 2, a provisional arrest warrant was sent by Interpol to the Bahamas police, but before they could act M Schuller had disappeared again.

M Schuller's life on the run was not uncomfortable: he

lately vanishing act, leaving his green Range Rover, a 50ft yacht and a new high-speed fishing boat, would also seem to indicate he was tipped off.

Even if he is found, getting M Schuller back to France could prove difficult, since the Bahamas has no formal extradition treaty with France and suspects are usually only extradited on murder or rape charges.

While several notable politicians may be happy to see M Schuller remain in exile, the fugitive himself has shown signs of wanting to return home. In a letter to investigating magistrates, leaked to *L'Express* magazine earlier this year, M Schuller said he was "fed up with being treated as the scapegoat for an affair in which I was only an instrument". M Schuller wrote that he was "ready to help" the investigators if "the authorities are prepared to hear my case without prejudice".

The fugitive Frenchman, who has reportedly boasted of having Fr35 million (£3.7 million) in various bank accounts, was spending up to £15,000 a month to maintain his lavish lifestyle in the Bahamas, according to *Le Nouvel Observateur*. The source of his wealth is likely to be the first thing that magistrates will want to ask him about.



Nostradamus: "It's the end of the world after quakes three Fridays in a row"

THE TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 17 1997

'End of the world' quake fear stirred by Nostradamus

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ANOTHER powerful tremor hit Umbria yesterday, as rumours spread throughout Italy that "the Big One" would strike today, in accordance with the prophecies of Nostradamus.

The first double earthquake hit central Italy three weeks ago, killing 11 people and damaging medieval frescoes at Assisi, where thousands of homes have been evacuated. There have since been more than 2,000 tremors, six of them measuring more than four on the Richter scale.

On Tuesday a quake with its epicentre at Sellano, 20 miles from Assisi, was felt in Rome — where a baroque church, with 18th-century frescoes suffered damage — and even as far south as Naples.

The epicentre of yesterday's tremor was also at Sellano, where the town centre has been almost completely destroyed.

Rescue workers salvaged 12th-century arches from the town hall. Thousands of residents of Umbria and the Marche are living under canvas or in prefabricated homes. Seismologists remain bafled by the continuing tremors.

Vulcanologists from the Etna and Vesuvius areas have been called in to see if they can throw any light on the phenomenon.

Psychologists said pre-millennium fears were becoming widespread. "We are living with fear," said La Repubblica.

The continuing quakes were giving rise to a national psychosis. Two psychologists from the University of Padua, Roberto Marzo and Carlo Heinrich, said people in the quake zone suffered from psychological disorders, including loss of libido.

Reno to WO with FBI C funds scans



Communists in retreat after vote collapses

FROM RICHARD BRISTON
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S once mighty Communist Party was in disarray yesterday after its humiliating climbdown in Parliament, the latest in a succession of failed attempts to muster a united opposition against the Kremlin.

Despite warnings over the past few weeks of a "hot autumn" of discontent, when the Communists and their Nationalist allies vowed to challenge President Yeltsin's rule, the opposition retreated without firing a shot in the first engagement of the political season.

Although the largest party in the Duma, the lower house of parliament, the Communists on Wednesday lost their nerve before a no confidence motion in the Government which they had earlier proposed. When it became clear that they would not be able to muster the necessary votes for the motion, they gratefully accepted a compromise from President Yeltsin.

It now seems doubtful that the no confidence motion, in its present form, will ever be

put to the vote and to many minds the opposition seems to have been cowed by Mr Yeltsin's threat to call parliamentary elections.

The debacle in the Duma has raised fresh questions about the leadership abilities of Gennadi Zyuganov, the lacklustre Communist Party leader, who could face a rebellion by hardliners when the party faithful gather for their congress tomorrow.

Already there are reports of splits within the ranks among

the progressive members who want to see the Party reformed along the lines of socialist movements in Eastern Europe and the old-style Soviet fundamentalists who refuse any notion of compromise.

Apart from the ideological debate, there is a growing perception that the Communists have allowed themselves to be co-opted by the Government. Gennadi Seleznyov, the Communist speaker of the Duma, is regarded as having a overly cozy relationship with the Kremlin. Mr Zyuganov, who daily denounces the economic reform programme of the Government, was seen having an intimate dinner at an exclusive Moscow gentlemen's club the other night with Anatoli Chubais, the deputy Prime Minister who masterminded Russia's privatisation programme.

An opinion poll released yesterday revealed that 54 per cent of Russians believe the country has taken the wrong path for reform. However, an opinion poll at the weekend showed that if presidential elections were held today, Mr Zyuganov would get less than 20 per cent of the vote.

Row over reunion of Hitler veterans

FROM ROGER BOYNTON
IN BONN

THE most highly decorated soldiers and airmen of the Third Reich began a veterans' reunion in Bavaria yesterday and immediately triggered fierce controversy.

Social Democratic and Green politicians, Catholic activists and anti-fascist groups criticised Volker Rübe, the German Defence Minister, for allowing the Knight's Cross holders to visit an army infantry school as part of their annual gathering. "The tradition these gentlemen represent should not be brought into contact with a democratic army," the Greens said. The League of Anti-Fascists said: "Army Knight's Cross veterans had engaged in extreme-right activities."

The Knight's Cross was Hitler's variant of the Iron Cross. It was supposed to be a grade above the Iron Cross First Class and one below the Grand Cross.

Renate Schmid, leader of the Bavarian Social Democrats, called on the Defence Ministry, trying to revive military traditions, to scrap the event. "As far as I am aware, members of the Association of the Knight's Cross have had trials with radical right-wing groups," she said to Herr Rübe.



THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM An evening with Paul Johnson

Readers of *The Times* are invited to hear Paul Johnson, distinguished historian and author, debate "The Future of America" with the *Newswatch* presenter Gavin Esler, and the former Ambassador to the US, Lord Newland, on Monday October 20. They will discuss America's role in the 21st century, its phenomenal success and its chances of staying at the top. The forum marks the publication of Paul Johnson's new book *A History of the American People* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson £25) and will be held at the Institute of Education, 26 Bedford Way, London WC1 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concession £7.50) which includes £3 off the price of the book. There will be an opportunity for questions from the audience. Subject to demand this event will be interpreted by sign language.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM
In association with the Institute of United States Studies

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Angolan firepower eases ex-dictator's takeover in Congo

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THE former Marxist military dictator of Congo returned to power yesterday after his troops swept into Brazzaville, the capital, and Pointe Noire, the centre of the oil industry, with the help of Angolan government soldiers, tanks and jet fighters.

The swift victory of General Denis Sassou-Nguesso was as much a triumph for Angola, which has secured the oil-rich enclave of Cabinda from attacks by Unita, the Angolan rebel movement, as it was for General Sassou-Nguesso's Cobra militia. The Angolans and the militia swept into Pointe Noire on Wednesday evening, a day after President Lissouba had lost the capital in a surprise assault on his palace by the Cobras, backed up by Angolan MiGs.

"Today the war is over. We control all of the country and all major cities," Jean-Marie Tassoua, a senior commander in the Cobra militia, said by telephone on Wednesday evening. The civil war

began in June when Mr Lissouba attempted to disarm the Cobra militia; after that it degenerated into a "Liberian scenario", in which drugged and drunken fighters dressed in drag to frighten their opponents.

Yesterday, bodies of alleged looters lay on the streets of Pointe Noire while Angolan tanks controlled key roads and the airport, but the city was otherwise quiet.

In Paris, the French Defence Ministry placed 300 paratroopers on standby to evacuate the city and most foreigners were ordered to stay in their hotels or the French consulate until tensions eased.

Brazzaville, a city close to many French hearts since it was a headquarters of the Free French during the Second World War, has been reduced to rubble after months of indiscriminate shelling that also hit Kinshasa, the capital of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire.

Although France and the United States condemned publicly Ango-



A member of the Cobra militia which, backed by Angola, defeated the forces of the elected President Lissouba in Brazzaville.

la's involvement in Congo, diplomats in the region said they were relieved that the war appeared to have come to a sudden end.

The collapse of Mr Lissouba's Government was partly due to the lack of discipline of his forces, but

mainly because he had provided bases for Unita guerrillas to launch assaults inside Cabinda and the rest of Angola, provoking the involvement of Angolan government troops in the conflict.

Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader,

has been reluctant to implement Angola's peace accords and has enjoyed the use of bases outside the country to continue his struggle.

But in the past ten months he has lost his key bases after the removal of President Mobutu in the former Zaire and now with the political demise of Mr Lissouba, his ally.

One Western diplomat in Kinshasa, commenting on the regional conflicts, said: "The prospects for peace in Angola look better every time Savimbi takes a knock."

Hutu night raids revive genocide fears in Rwanda

FROM DAVID ORE
IN GISENYI, RWANDA

BLOODSTAINED rags and a wicker stretcher outside Gisenyi hospital show that yet another "war" victim has been brought down from the hills ringing this northwest Rwanda town by the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire.

This time a man from the Hutu majority has been injured in a machete attack. Those who took him to hospital say his assailants were from Mudende, a refugee camp holding about 32,000 ethnic Tutsis from Congo. "This is happening all the time now," says Celestine Ndarasi, the hospital administrator. "They are usually brought down in the morning after a night-time attack."

Soon afterwards comes news that 37 Tutsis were killed on Monday night at Arusha, a settlement for Rwandans who returned from refugee camps in Zaire shortly before the 1994 Rwandan genocide. They are said to have been attacked by Hutu militants and soldiers from the former Rwandan Army, themselves just back from Congo camps.

More than three years after the genocide that killed at least half a million people, mostly Tutsis, Rwanda is still locked in a cycle of murder and revenge. Laurent Kabila's Rwandan-backed victory in Congo has not brought peace to Central Africa; there is widespread unrest in eastern Congo and fighting has spilled over into Uganda.

An average of 1,000 Rwandans have died violent deaths every month, according to UN officials, many of them unarmed civilians.

The Rwandan Government insists that the security situation is improving, but the Tutsi-dominated regime is fighting for its survival. Little quarter will be shown.



ditonal stronghold, Gisenyi's inhabitants live in fear. One morning last week they awoke to the sound of machinegun fire and mortars coming from hills by the airport. Never before had there been such a raid on the town. And never before had they come in such large numbers at least 1,000 were in the attack, according to the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA).

"We treated about 15 injured [RPA] soldiers here," says the hospital administrator. Asked if any injured rebels were brought in, he smiles, then looks at the ground. The inference is clear: this is a bloody war and few prisoners are taken. During May and June the RPA says it killed 1,800 "rebels" here. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Field Operations in Rwanda knows of only a dozen prisoners being taken.

Rwandans have died violent deaths every month, according to UN officials, many of them unarmed civilians.

The Rwandan Government insists that the security situation is improving, but the Tutsi-dominated regime is fighting for its survival. Little quarter will be shown.



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Cook lists gains from trip

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FAR from being the accident-prone fiasco portrayed in the media, the state visits to India and Pakistan have been spectacularly successful, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday. The visit to India had led to important trade contracts, brought huge and warm crowds into the streets, especially in Amritsar, and has yielded valuable political agreements during his talks with Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister, Mr Cook said.

The Foreign Secretary, who returned home on Wednesday, said there was a perception in the Royal Household that there were two state visits: the one reported by the media which focused only on protocol difficulties, and the one experienced by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

When we returned from Amritsar we were euphoric at the reception, Mr Cook said. He said that tens of thousands of people came to see the Queen, with crowds stretching for 20 miles. The high point was the presence of five Sikhs from Birmingham who were paying for the restoration of the Golden Temple. This illustrates the very close ties between our two countries, Mr Cook told *The Times*.

State visits, he said, had three main purposes and these had been achieved. The first was the people-to-people contact, which was "spectacularly" achieved at Amritsar, Madras and in the other cities visited. The second was to create a good climate in which to boost trade. And the third was to give politicians the chance to meet in the wings of the visit and discuss bilateral relations.

Mr Cook said his talks with Mr Gujral had gone well. He said that political and economic relations had never been better or in better shape. He said they discussed co-operation in the World Trade Organisation, at the United Nations and at the forthcoming Commonwealth conference in Edinburgh. Mr Gujral will be one of only four speakers at the opening of the summit.

He said that his talks in Pakistan had focused on how to obtain a ceasefire in Afghanistan and the vital issue of drug trade prevention.

Blair seeks to salvage royal tour of India

Blunders leave Government with serious foreign policy hitch, says Philip Webster, political editor

TONY BLAIR and Robin Cook tried yesterday to salvage the Queen's tour of India after a series of blunders left the Government embroiled in its first serious foreign policy setback. The war of words between Delhi and London is threatening to overshadow next week's Commonwealth Conference in Edinburgh.

The Prime Minister ordered the Cabinet to highlight the successes of the tour after damaging coverage in Britain and India. Senior ministers tried to play down suggestions of a rift between Buckingham Palace and the Government after a royal official appeared to deflect blame for breaches of protocol on to ministers.

But hopes that the controversy might die down were dashed last night when Indian government sources claimed Labour had a "hidden agenda" to create an independent Kashmir.

The unnamed sources said Mr Cook had told Indian authorities the Kashmir issue was an "article of faith" with the Labour Party. The hidden agenda was ultimately to obtain an independent state of Jammu and Kashmir, the sources said. Cook genuinely believes that there is an unfinished business of Partition.

A speech by the Queen in Islamabad called on Pakistan and India to settle their "historic differences" over Kashmir, a remark that upset the Indian Government because it was seen as internationalising the conflict. But a senior official travelling with the Queen yesterday said she had acted on her Government's advice. The Queen is here on

the advice of ministers in Britain. The Queen does not go out on a limb.

Senior palace officials were reported later to have assured the Foreign Office that the remarks were not intended as criticism of the Government.

They said that the official was merely stating the constitutional position and had no complaint over the advice offered by Mr Cook to the Queen. Mr Cook, back in London, spoke to Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, yesterday and there was apparently no acronym.

High-ranking Foreign Office sources said that Mr Cook was not aware that the palace was levelling any criticism at the Government. Mr Cook later defended the Islamabad speech which the Foreign Office would have automatically seen. It is unreasonable to criticise Her Majesty for calling for reconciliation between the two countries, he said.

The Foreign Secretary and Mr Blair were at pains all day to claim that the media's concentration on alleged breaches of protocol had obscured the true value of the tour.

Mr Cook described the row

over the speech the Queen had had to cancel last night as a "storm in a teacup". And in a move that appeared to take the pressure off Sir David Gore-Booth, British High Commissioner in Delhi, the Foreign Secretary let it be known that no blame attached to British officials.

Ministers said that reports of friction between Britain and India were "making mountains out of molehills". But tensions persisted with another Indian government minister criticising Mr Cook and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The row has given a rare chance for the Conservatives to attack. Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, accused Mr Cook of damaging Britain's standing abroad. Never has a Foreign Secretary caused so much offence to so many people in such a short time. He has made a disastrous start.

At yesterday's Cabinet meeting Mr Cook said the royal visit to Pakistan and India had been a success, contrary to media reports. He described the "enormous warmth" with which people had greeted the Queen, and said the trip had also been a major success in trade terms, with the signing of eight big contracts.

Jayanthi Natarajan, the Indian Civil Aviation Minister, told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* that although the state visit had been "successful from the Queen's point of view", there was unhappiness about "certain avoidable remarks" attributed to Mr Cook.

Philip Howard, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Roses tribute to Gandhi

weeks of state visits to Pakistan and India, belying the confusion that has been swirling about her.

It was a quiet day, as outwardly serene as all the others in her nearly two

of crafts, the Queen fulfilled a more sombre engagement. She was driven for an hour out of the city to the park where Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, was blown up by a suicide-bomber in 1991, and laid a wreath of red roses in front of a memorial. Today she flies to Cochin for the penultimate day of engagements.

A SENIOR Indian opposition politician demanded yesterday that Britain return to India the world's most famous diamond and the largest collection of Indian manuscripts.

Speaking on the BBC *Today* programme, K.R. Malkani, a leading member of the BJP Hindu nationalist party, called for the return of the Koh-i-Noor diamond and the India Office Library, renewing claims that have been made for more than 50 years.

There is no chance that the Government will agree to the transfer of the diamond or the priceless collection of books in the British Library. The Koh-i-Noor forms part of the Crown Jewels and will not be returned, the Foreign Office said.

Even before independence, Indian politicians were demanding the return of the 105-carat gem that is the centrepiece of the Queen Mother's Crown. It was presented to Queen Victoria by the East India Company in 1850. At intervals over the past 50 years that demand has been repeated by Indian politicians.

The India Office Library is a priceless collection of manuscripts and archives from and about India and Asia that was formerly housed in the India Office in Whitehall. It now forms part of the British Library, and with 13 miles of archives and about a million published items is the richest collection in the world.

Some 70 per cent of them are in Asian languages; the rest are books published in Europe. Many do not deal with India at all, but cover much of Asia and Africa, including records of dealings between the East India Company and China.

Envoy rejects fuss about 'little toasts here and there'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN MADRAS

CONTROVERSY continued to dog the Queen's visit yesterday, despite an intensive damage-control exercise by the Foreign Office and the Palace. British sources indicated that Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, had raised the question of Kashmir with Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister, in Delhi this week despite an Indian statement saying he had not done so.

It was apparently not a hostile meeting, as some Indian reports indicated yesterday, but Mr Gujral did urge Mr Cook to be more cautious in his public statements.

The two countries have been at odds all week about events surrounding the Queen's visit in large measure because of India's outrage at what it suspects is the British Government's anti-Indian position.

over Kashmir. The depth of anger is reflected in extraordinary outbursts by official spokesmen in Delhi.

Comments yesterday by Sir David Gore-Booth, the British High Commissioner to Delhi, were described by one External Affairs Ministry spokesman as an attempt to "cover his backside". Sir David said the brief remarks that the Queen had planned in Tamil Nadu, which she was forced to cancel because India said protocol allowed only one speech per state visit, had never amounted to a speech.

"I am not sure what the fuss is all about," he said. It had never been intended that there should be more than one major speech. The rest were going to be "little toasts here and there". The Queen did not feel embarrassed. "It is a little snafu that is bound to occur in a programme of this magnitude and complexity."

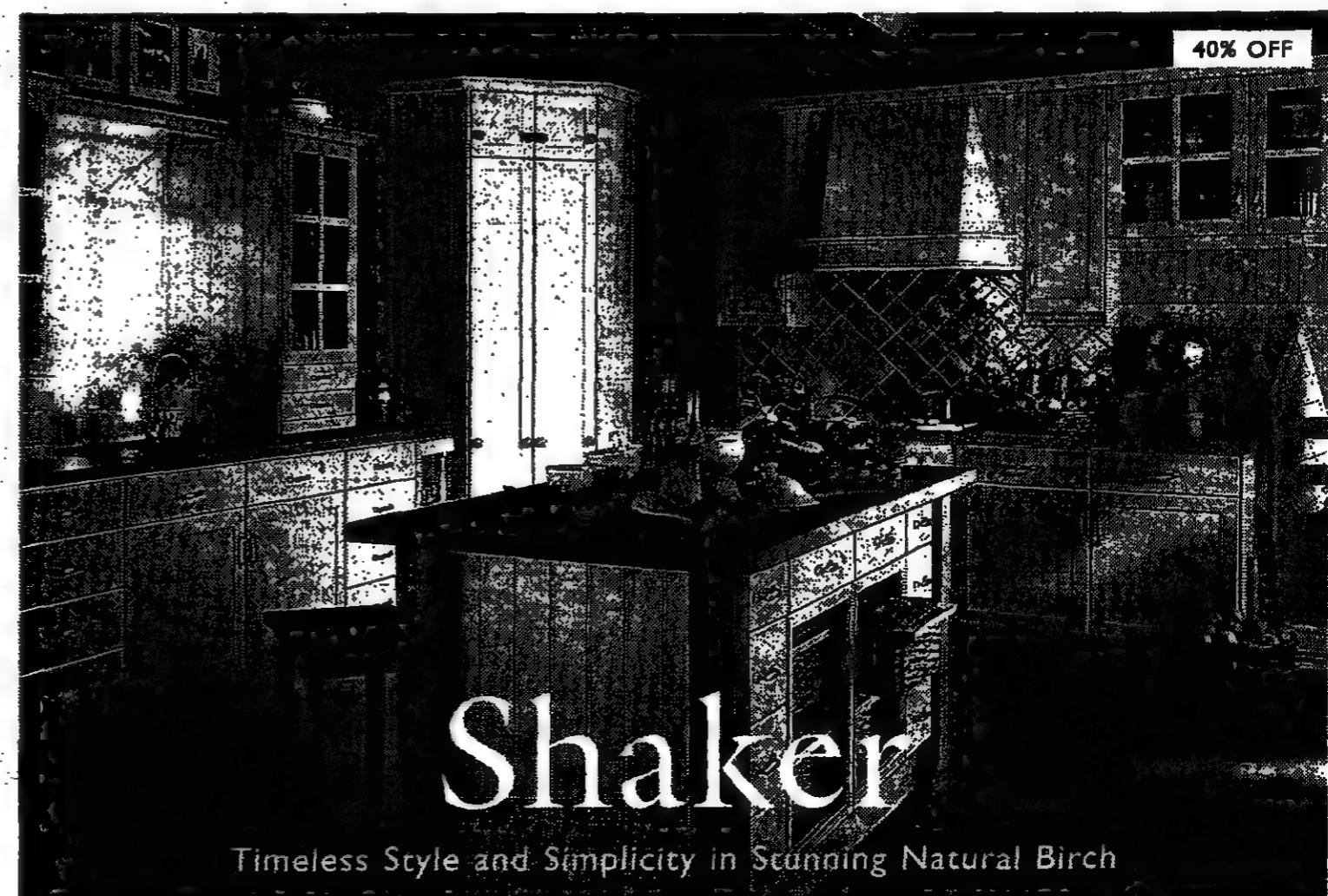
He said the relationship between Britain and India was sensitive for historical reasons and the fact that India had invited the Queen was a tribute to her and Britain. The visit was bound to be difficult to navigate because of historic sensitivities. He defended the speech she made in Pakistan because "it would be extremely odd if the Queen were in Pakistan and did not refer to what is, for the Pakistanis, the core issue".

Palace officials indicated yesterday that the Queen had accepted that the Royal Family must adapt after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, but made it clear there would be no sudden switch of style. They spoke of the need for "softer, gentler touches".

A senior source said that "no one should ever try to persuade any member of the Royal Family to be anything they are not". The Palace regards the death of the Princess as the first royal tragedy to occur in what a senior official called the "mass media culture". He said shock waves normally took time to reach the outside world but this time they had reached everyone immediately.

These observations indicate soul-searching within the Royal Family to redefine its role. The Queen's trip to Pakistan and India could have successfully projected her but instead the visit has been mired in trouble. The Queen is described, nevertheless, as happy with the welcome she has received. Palace officials talked of the "bit-picking" that has overwhelmed the trip's positive aspects. The affair of the cancelled speech in Madras had added to other "fleas" during the tour.

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Food for thought

An evening with P.D. James



P.D. James, Britain's most popular crime novelist, will discuss her highly successful career, her life as a writer and her characters, including the famous Commander Adam Dalgliesh — the subject of a major TV series — in *The Times/Dillons Forum* on Thursday, October 23. Chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, the forum also offers the opportunity for the audience to put questions to P.D. James. The forum marks the publication of her new book *A Certain Justice* (Faber and Faber £15.99) and will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concession £7.50) which includes £2 off the price of the book. Subject to demand this event will be interpreted by sign language.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Please send me ticket at £10 each (£7.50 concession) for The Times/Dillons P.D. James Forum on Thursday, October 23, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1.

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The British are here to stay



John Galliano's collection for Dior: a fusion of Belle Epoque splendour with boudoir seduction



John Galliano, left, for Dior; Stella McCartney in her first collection for Chloé; Galliano, again for Dior, and Issey Miyake

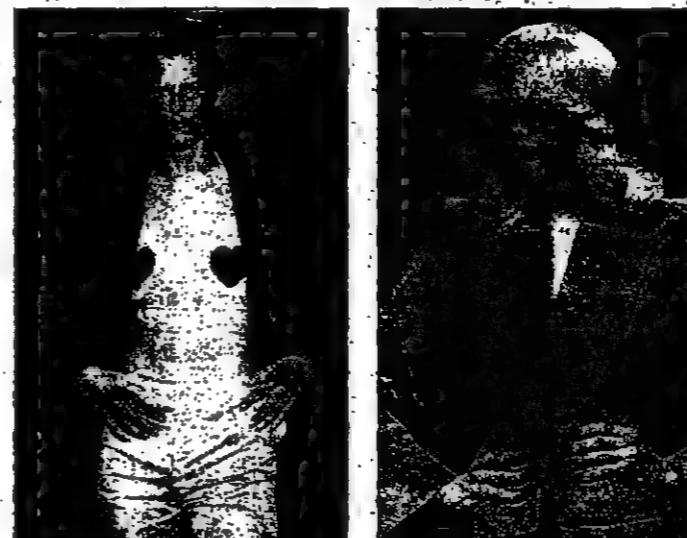
Back in the 1960s, Sir Paul McCartney hitch-hiked to Paris and posed for a picture on the steps of the Paris Opera House. That was as far as he got. On Wednesday his daughter Stella took over the place for her debut as chief designer at Chloé. On each of the little gilt chairs there was a programme entitled "Stella McCartney: I believe." And it was Stella's guest list that was on the door.

Sir Paul had a tear in his eye. He was not the only one: there are members of the French fashion establishment who could weep that their most famous *ateliers* have been overrun by Britons. What is more, the Britons look set to stay. John Galliano is firmly established, while Bernard Arnault is negotiating to extend the two-year contract of Alexander McQueen, the East End bad boy.

So Paris Fashion Week is scarcely recognisable as French any more. The first five days were dominated by the British, the Japanese and Belgian and Austrian deconstructionists. Even Chanel is headed by a German, Karl Lagerfeld.

It is, however, the Britons who are really on trial. Galliano can do haute couture superlatively — but can he do a commercial ready-to-

Paris Fashion Week scarcely qualifies as being truly French any more, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry



Stella McCartney for Chloé, and Alexander McQueen for Givenchy

wear collection? McQueen can do ready-to-wear — though his harsh aesthetic is not everyone's taste — but the jury is out on his haute couture. And before this week, the question was: could Stella McCartney cut it at all?

To everyone's surprise, it was McCartney, 25, just two years out of Central St Martin's, who silenced the doubters most effectively. The soundtrack to her show included the song, *Ain't She Sweet*, and the clothes were just that — creatively unambitious but feminine, whimsical and above all desirable.

produce some outré clothes to give themselves an avant-garde cachet, McCartney doesn't. Her front row — Paul, Ringo, David Bailey, was the cachet.

The Dior show was harder to call. Galliano's fusion of Belle Epoque splendour with boudoir seduction has proved such a winning combination that he has carried it over from the haute couture to the ready-to-wear. But the dresses, including stunning bias-cut lingerie numbers, were less opulent versions of their couture counterparts.

Despite a section of the show hopefully entitled "Business Meetings", the combination of high-waisted pinstripe trousers with double-breasted jackets tucked *inside*, seem unlikely to catch on. The short, nipped-waist jackets remain highly desirable.

McQueen, showing his second ready-to-wear collection for Givenchy, was the only one to strike out in a new direction. The Paris-Texas theme only occasionally descended into kitsch. If some of the trouser suits featured scary shoulder pads, then others were lean, mean and rather cool, with fringing on sleeves that flared into a bell-bottom.

But if Parisians find McQueen a little outlandish, then there is still hope for him, compared with Issey Miyake whose collection did not inspire immediate affection. The opening dresses, constructed of swathes of off-white muslin, were reminiscent of surgical bandages. Later, billows of crushed silk wound round the models in sculptural forms. But still, the French love Issey Miyake.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



GAGA ABOUT GALLIANO

Style pulls back the blinds at the house of Dior

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPER



Kimberly Fortier: tried and condemned as a small-time kitten woman

Kitten woman: claws and effect



As Germaine Greer attacks the women's magazine culture of sexual availability, Vogue profiles the kitten woman in all her fluffy glory. Below, Kimberly Fortier and Erica Wagner debate the issue



Erica Wagner: women are people, kittens are just baby cats

Women are not created equal. Some are pretty, clever and well-connected. Others are not. But there are those who know how to circumvent whatever Mother Nature has doled out, and grab the floor either way. Among these is the genus "kitten woman".

You know the type: you've met her often enough. You're in the boardroom, business on your mind, when she comes busting in (late again). Her taxi ran into a political protest in Park Lane: what's the problem with these Albanians anyway? She sits down, cocks her head and playfully taps your wrist. What a marvellous manicure you have. She can't ever find the time... or any place in town... where do you go? Now, about the printing contract, it's 25 per cent over what she's budgeted and she's been reading that paper prices are way down per tonnage. Sorry, no deal at this price. But don't you just love the *Financial Times* — the pink paper, so flattering to the complexion? It reflects up on your face when you read it...

This is kitten woman in all her fluffy, purring, girlish glory. Listen carefully and you'll hear the distinctive call: whether it's a Jackie Kennedy-style baby whisper or Marilyn Monroe's breathy, little-girl drawl. It's not the kind of voice you hear hurting over the "time" call in a pub. At a party, the man she's speaking to has to lean forward to hear her. Quite a bit forward — unless she's actually whispering in his ear.

Kitten woman has a way of making every gesture look childlike and intimate. If she's a friend of yours, she'll straighten your collar, clasp

your hand, tilt her head and look up into your eyes. But don't believe this is all about sexual power: she wants women to like her just as much as men. In a strange way, women are the more important conquest of the two. Men already tend to see women as the other. They expect women to behave in a different way and are more relaxed about being charmed and cajoled. Women, however, want a certain amount of sameness from their female friends and colleagues (particularly if the women in question are on a similar level at work).

Other women are alarmed by all that verbal tap-dancing and eyelash fluttering. They doubt and distrust. To win these women over, is she a mate.

Though they can sound rather outrageous in print, the voice and the body language common to kitten women are actually quite subtle, as is the dress code. She does not go for overtly sexy or glamorous clothing, nor does she favour cutting-edge designer fashion. Her pastel linen suits, tidy dresses and slender trousers and jackets are chosen so that she will be noticed, not her clothes. In a subtly titillating way, they often resemble an elegant school uniform. She wears very good jewellery, which she's collected purposefully for years. Her manicure is neat, nails not too long, garish varnish out of the question. Her make-up is neutral (no smoky-eyed, scarlet-lipped vamp) and applied to create the glow of health and youth. Her hair is tamely clean. It tends to be shoulder length, with lots of shine and bounce. She has what her friends call a good



cut. There is a certain timeless quality to her personal style: she is not interested in slavishly following whatever trend is being touted this year.

Of course, the kitten woman is nothing new, quite the opposite. Through history, kittenish behaviour has been a feminine ideal. It reached its zenith in the 19th century, when if you didn't have an adorable, wheedling child-bride, then you'd married the wrong girl. Since the First World War, there has been a gradual flow of women into the workforce, accelerating with the sexual liberation of the Sixties and the break-up of the traditional family unit.

Women have come to grips with the idea of diverse wants and needs for their sisters. Ambition and career are acceptable. Motherhood and family are equally fine. Yet women are still stigmatised. A woman can do what she wants, as long as she sticks to some fairly strict, though unspoken, guidelines. Work must be taken seriously, unemotionally, purposefully; just like a man does really.

Poor kitten woman. Once admired, she now faces contempt from the (non-feline) female population. A case in point is the phone call I received from *Vogue's* features director. She began to describe

the kind of woman and behaviour that was tangibly unacceptable to her. "You know," she said, "the kind of woman who makes you feel like she's in a pink taffeta dress while you're slumping about in your jeans. The kind of woman who doesn't let on that she's [big pause] really quite [bigger pause] intelligent." Ugh! I knew why she was asking me to write this. I was being tried (and condemned) as a small-time kitten woman.

In defence, I have to say that kitten behaviour is rarely a conscious, calculated act; it's more a mixture of folkloric memory and nature. It's a preference for the roundabout over the straight line, nuanced chatter over direct confrontation; *Talleyrand* over Napoleon, Clara Bow over Joan Crawford. We want success, like everyone else. And sometimes it's best reached through a great deal of laughter and tossing of curls. "I tend to hire very chatty, feminine women," admits the chairman of an advertising agency. "Beneath a barrage of banal chatter they move quite successfully towards a specific goal."

As the American novelist Walker Percy once said of Southern girls (the mothers of all kitten women): "They see

you coming in several different directions before you even know they're there." In this way their lack of obvious direction is a great defence for a kitten woman. If people don't know what you're trying to achieve, then they can't point-point failure. Life is fun, let's be merry, snapping up that big IBM contract is just the cherry on the cake.

Let's face it, men have control of the citadel and they're not crazy about ambitious women, so being ambitious without looking it works. Early BBC footage of Margaret Thatcher shows the young MP talking softly of politics while she does the washing-up after Sunday lunch. What a pro.

The deflating part of life for kitten woman is that many people don't get the joke. My

beautiful, serious best friend is still puzzled by the way I occasionally act, and spends time explaining to her other friends. She once introduced me to a *Guardian* journalist, with the words: "This is Kimberly. She is not as she seems."

When we meet after work I reprimand her: "Why can't I be interested in the environment and have a great hairdo, too? Why can't I support women MPs and shop at *Chanel*?"

• Extracted from an article in the November issue of *Vogue*. Kimberly Fortier is publisher of *The Spectator*

WHO'S WHO IN THE FELINE STAKES

KITTEN WOMEN

Helena Bonham Carter
Charlie Blair
The Queen Mother
Anna Ford
Julia Burchill
Donatella Versace
Naomi Wolf
Felicity Kendal
Arundhati Roy
Anna Wintour
Lia Lee

TIGRESSSES

Emma Thompson
Clare Short
Camilla Parker Bowles
Sue MacGregor
Charlotte Raven
Donna Karan
Germaine Greer
Dame Maggie Smith
Jeanette Winterson
Diana Vreeland
Po

Why I prefer real charm over guile

Well, you choose. They've given you a list. Felicity Kendal or Clare Short. Who's it going to be?

They're all out there, the categories we can slot ourselves into. Men and women both — but let's face it, mainly women. Kitten woman seems to be the latest. She's not quite a vamp, she's nicer than that. She'd never steal your husband and you'd never lean over to your partner; flick your chin in her direction and whisper, "Look what she's got on. Really."

Kitten woman keeps it quiet. Nice manicure, tasteful clothes, curly cut just right for tossing. She gets her man — and in this case let's take that as a fair metaphor — for her business deal, or just her way — with a good deal of cleverness and a healthy dose of eyelash-batting which, of course, is just fine. The problem is when other people notice what's going on.

Most women go about things differently from men. Not so long ago I sat quietly at

a table while two men I know stood over one another in an attempt to gain victory in an argument. I can recall thinking to myself that this was not how I would have gone about my own campaign: but my strategy would not have included inquiring who had cut my opponent's hair.

I like to think I'd address the issue with calm and intelligence — and some degree of charm. The secret of charm, the real kind, is that you must not be able to spot it, and surely that is the problem with kitten woman, or at least in deciding very consciously to be her. This goes for men as well as women.

Charm in its best sense is genuine, a real desire to get the best from people — whatever the situation — because it is in everyone's best interests. Charm doesn't work when it's calculated. You can see it coming from over the river.

In theory, the point about KW (as we may perhaps call her) is that you can't be subtle and so clever that you

don't have any curls to toss, and I can't pretend that this isn't a decision quite as conscious as one to have a permanent wave. Every decision I make — every decision we all make — about how I cut my hair, what I wear, how I behave, is at some level calculated, even at the times I

might fool myself it isn't. And of course I know that there are times when a smile will really do the trick. But that's the way human beings interact. That's what makes it interesting.

Rejecting the stereotype of kitten woman doesn't mean turning into *Aliens'* Ripley. Think about plain Jane Eyre: a woman who got what she wanted (you might see her marriage to Mr Rochester as the only kind of merger and acquisition available to most women at the time) by speaking her mind. Jane wouldn't flatter or flutter, Jane told the truth. As for Blanche Ingram, where did all her kittenish skitterings get her? Right out the door, that's where. Jane may not think she's beautiful, but she is, she's clear, unwavering character shining through her every action.

Clarity, not guile, is the more attractive trait. It's an idea that runs through literature — not just Jane, but Esther Summerson in *Block House* (one of Dickens's best women, though he seems to have had a weakness for the

kitten himself), to name just one other — and popular culture too: how better to explain the appeal of an actor such as Jodie Foster?

Of course, if being kitten woman makes you happy, live long and prosper, may all your mergers be merry. But is the secret of the successful woman's life really to hide her ambitions in a whispery voice and a downcast eye? I don't think it has to be that way. If, at the end of our meeting, I have charmed you, I hope I have achieved it by showing you who I am, not who I think you would like me to. Then there is a fair better chance that what we want to achieve — success in business, a particular goal, or, indeed, a love affair — will not only come to pass but continue to bear fruit for us both. I'll look you in the eye and tell you what I think. The thing about women is they're people. Kitten women are just baby cats.

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A shot in the arm for the body politic

Denis MacShane wants the State to fund parties, not smother them

Should taxpayers pay for democracy? The question Sir Patrick Neill has to answer is not a new one. Pound by pound, decade by decade, the political process has got its hands on public money. To read Trotsippe, the only linkage between politics and money was whether or not the Duke of Orrim would buy a seat for one of his wife's favourites. We have moved on from the late 19th century.

MPs now have a middle-rank professional salary, though even that is not sufficient for some Tory front-benchers. Allowances for MPs permit them to hire one-and-a-half members of staff at decent London salaries but travel, telephone calls, constituency offices, computer and communications equipment all have to be juggled within tight limits. Ken Clarke had to find a £20 B&B at the Blackpool conference because he was paying from his own pocket.

Shadow Cabinet members now get financial assistance. Since Harold Wilson's day, the leaders of the two main Opposition parties get a car and driver. But the broader funding of parties was always rejected by the Conservatives. Their own occult sources of funding, including some dodgy overseas cash cows, allowed the Tories to outspend their rivals. Conservative MPs also loved jeering at Labour being in the pockets of the trade unions. They had a point. Until the Tony Blair era, the unions paid the vast majority of the party's bills. Labour's turn to business and the doubling of party membership and donations have reduced the trade union share of Labour's income, but the latter remains important.

William Hague's identification of sleaze — not the sexual variety but the corruption of public ethics by money and power — as the cancer to be rooted out if his party is to survive shows how fast Tory thinking on party political funding has evolved.

There can be few who want to move to the American or Japanese system of permanent fundraising, because there are no limits on what political parties can spend on television advertising. The business of politics should be to strengthen democracy's power over money, not the reverse. Paradoxically, the millions of dollars that American political parties raise and spend do little to encourage political participation. An American President is lucky if one in four of his fellow citizens bothers to vote for him.

But do we want to go in the other direction — of political parties being given large cheques simply for existing, or for standing candidates in elections? Forms of state funding now exist in all European countries. In France and Italy the scandal of ministerial decisions being taken or contracts awarded in return for major donations to political parties destroyed political careers — indeed, it destroyed the Italian Christian Democrats.

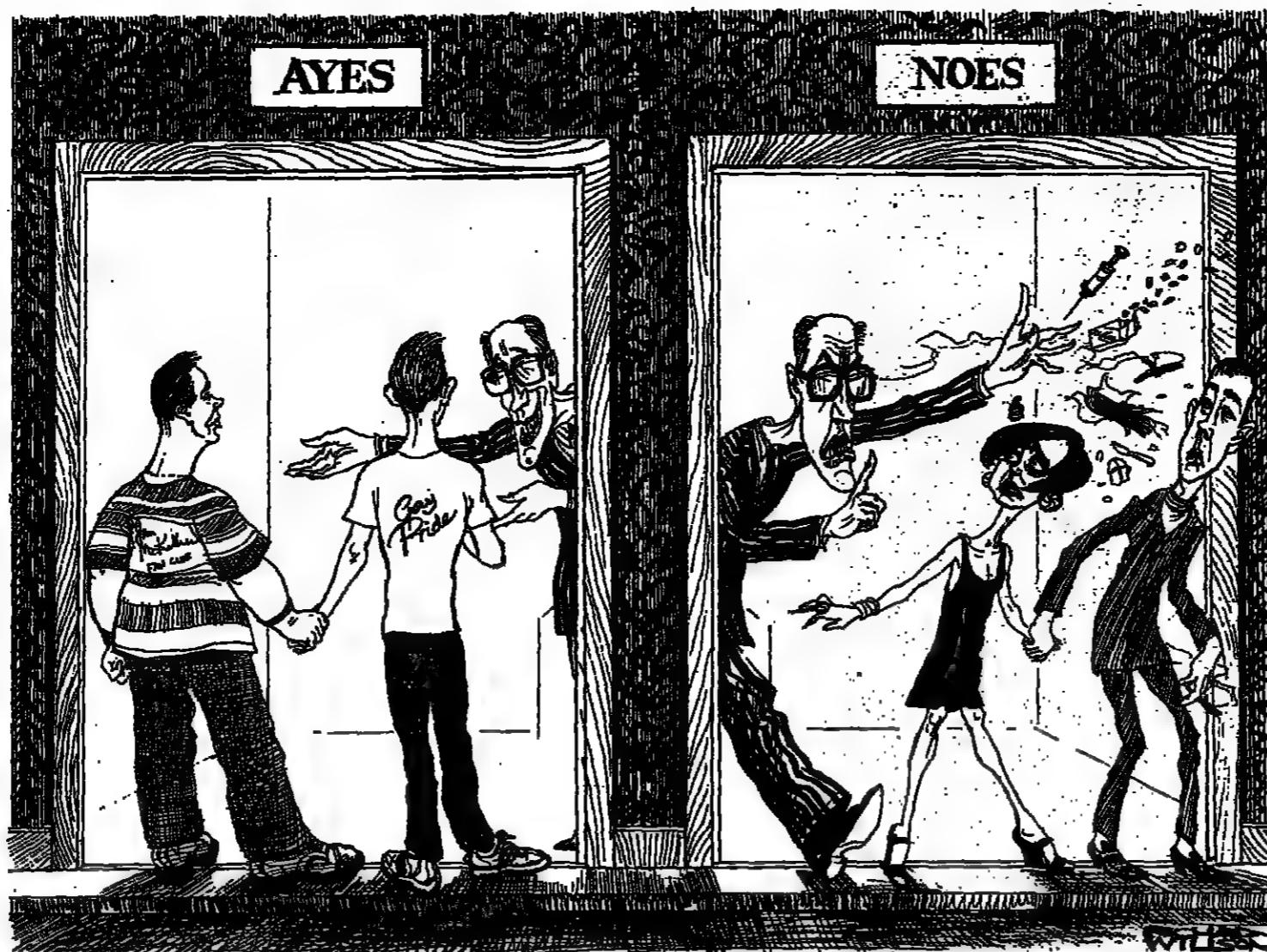
Can Britain find a third way between the corruptions of US political fundraising and the corporatism of European state funding? One mechanism might be to distinguish be-

T his week I will have attended two party meetings in my constituency in Rotherham at which the Christmas raffle tickets were sold, tickets printed for the annual fundraising dinner, and plans laid to recruit new members. I don't want a state cheque to replace that. I like partisan political campaigning and will raise money and recruit supporters. Nor do I want money flowing exclusively to the central party machines, which can then control local political activity by withholding cash.

Fellow Labour MPs may say that I am mad to argue for a state funding system that puts a premium on the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties being obliged to go out and recruit members, and having financial help to discuss policy. On the contrary, it places all the more onus on new Labour to out-recruit and out-think our opponents. It is part of the process of modernisation.

I suspect, that my grumpiness about the gay bandwagon is a result of having been left in the dust myself by its acceleration. In the 1980s, perhaps at some slight cost to

The author is Labour MP for Rotherham.



Westminster logjams

Gay rights took a decade to become Commons sense; drugs will take longer

Looking in, during Labour's Brighton conference, on the Stonewall lobbying group's gay equality dance in the Metropole's big Empress ballroom, you might have suspected that heterosexual partygoers outnumbered gay ones. You would have been right. The straights turned out in force. Quite a few of the gays stayed away. The straights, poor lambs, had heard the event was the happening thing.

Policy discussion is not simply academic "working" but the lifeblood of the democratic process. It cannot be reduced to gladiatorial Left-Right contests at conference dinners, nor to glitzy, pre-packaged speeches and headlines orchestrated by spin-doctors. By focusing state aid on the process of policy debate and development as well as the training of candidates and party officials, British politics would free itself from the accusation of being sexist to special interests. Companies, unions and pressure groups would still be free to lobby, campaign, and seek to influence politics.

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I suspect, that my grumpiness about the gay bandwagon is a result of having been left in the dust myself by its acceleration. In the 1980s, perhaps at some slight cost to

my own prospects, I attached myself to an argument considered by fellow Conservatives to be futile, self-destructive and silly. As parliamentary vice-president of the Conservative Group for Homosexual Equality, the late Martin Stevens and I campaigned for a modest measure of tolerance of homosexuality within our party, and for the Home Office to consider an eventual reduction of the age of consent to 16. I never really weighed the arguments for 16 as the age of consent, or for laws protecting gay partnerships, not because I thought them wrong but because

they seemed absurdly avant-garde.

Avant-garde in any party, it was a Labour whip, Walter Harrison, who took me kindly aside in the Strangers' Bar at the Commons in the mid-1980s and advised me to steer well clear of the issue if I wanted to be taken seriously. "Not in this century," we were told by censorious but worldly-wise party managers, "may be not in our lifetimes."

Well not, as it turned out, in Martin Stevens's lifetime. Dear Martin died suddenly in 1986, his brave work largely unremarked. At the funeral in his constituency of Fulham, no speaker mentioned his work for the homosexual cause, although we were there among the congregation, we who had worked with him and whom he had so encouraged. At the memorial service for Alan Roberts (until his death in 1990, the Labour MP for Bootle and a frontbencher), Alan's homosexuality was never alluded to.

Nowadays one reads articles such as Sir Malcolm Rifkind's on this page on Tuesday, sounding a cautionary note on the Tories' "inclusive" approach to gays while allowing, almost as a throwaway line, that of course nobody advocates intolerance.

Nobody? Maybe nobody does now, or not openly. But that is partly because of the work of people like Martin. I wonder if Malcolm would have agreed to be guest of honour at one of CGHE's annual dinners in the early 1980s — dinners at which we always had such an embarrassing struggle to get any Commons col-

a pathological fear of reactionary populism, and populist views are vastly overrepresented among the party activists with whom, disproportionately, they socialise. The noisy opinions of one taxi driver or one disgruntled ward chairman, outshout, in an MP's ears, the quiet (sometimes silent) practice of thousands of their constituents whom they hardly know.

Thus an MP's position on (for instance) homosexuality gets stuck; and when three or four hundred together get stuck, then, like logs, the impression is of absolute rigidity. That many of these MPs feel less secure in their opinions than they tell each other is obscured. The consensus is thus as shallow as it is apparently rigid.

Then a log moves. Then another. And suddenly the whole jam begins to shift. What follows is a surprisingly fast-freezing-up of the whole fiddle. People begin to tell each other that the new thinking was theirs, too, all along, but they never said so; it seemed a hopeless cause.

In 1980, homosexual law reform seemed to me a very hopeless cause. When in 1988 a number of us placed an advertisement in *The Independent* with 200 signatures from public life, opposing the draft Clause 28 then going through Parliament, we little thought our advocacy of "tolerance of the differences between people" would look, less than a decade later, so very unexceptionable.

When, in 1987, 100 prominent people signed that advertisement headed "The law against marijuana is immoral in principle and unworkable in practice" in *The Times*, they probably did hope that, 30 years later, their opinion would seem unexceptionable. But this logjam remains jarred. If Keith Hellawell, perhaps from a change of mind or perhaps fearful lest his post as Tony Blair's "drugs" can be snatched from him, finds it necessary to retreat from the more liberal views he expressed three years ago as a Chief Constable, we sense those logs are still piled up.

Few MPs take drugs; many are gay; with drugs there are further degrees of separation between what MPs say

and what their constituents do.

There are, I think, two reasons for this. First, many MPs do not actually know how the world lives. Most of them watch little television. Some of the older generation of Tories, I found, honestly doubted whether they knew any homosexuals. Secondly, Tory MPs in particular (but working-class Labour MPs too) have

■ Human facelift, Ma'am? No: your own will do nicely

According to Chris Thomas, our man in Delhi, the Queen is about to launch a more people-friendly monarchy when she returns from her state visits. A senior Palace source described the project to him as "monarchy with a human face". This is an understandable reaction to the people's feely-flowery sentimental revolution after the death and sanctification of Diana, Princess of Wales. Though it does raise the question of what sort of face a monarch can wear other than a human one, pray.

The last monarch to mingle freely with his people as an ordinary human being (or, at any rate, as ordinary a human being as can be played by a bluff old admiral) was William IV.

He was surprised to succeed to the throne, and delighted by the celebrity it brought. His habit of strolling along the promenade at Brighton, saying "What, what?" to all and sundry gave his courtiers kittens, and attracted a large train of all and sundry. So after William died, the royals gave up using the Royal Pavilion, and Victoria put back the regal mask on the face of royalty. Another monarch with a human face was Charles II, who developed a rapid walk and the all-purpose greeting of "God bless you, my good man, God bless you!" to get through the crowd of petitioners in St James's Park without giving anything away. In his day, crowds were more deferential and royal mounds were as permanent as the Roman police.

Then dropping cliché about the merits of having a human face rather than a regal or poker or rock face can be traced back to Alexander Dubcek, when he said: "We followed a policy so that socialism would not lose its human face." It was given a spin by Ted Heath on the Loriot affair: "It is the unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism." But the question of whether you can find the mind's construction in the face goes back at least four centuries to the "faceless spin-doctor" of another Elizabeth with both a human and a professionally organised Faerie Queen face.

So the monarchy is to have a new, human face. New Labour is a hot-air balloon of nominal newness and no substance. The Conservatives are compassionate, liberal and desperate to be re-elected. All is suddenly renewed. So can we please have our Shakespeare back? Recently Shakespeare has been enlisted for all faces. Right-wingers such as Michael Portillo decode him as a Thatcherite nationalist of good old England by partial misreading of Henry V, *Hamlet* and *Ulysses* in *Troilus and Cressida*. Victor Hugo and anti-Establishment academics enlist him as a man of the people and subversive anti-imperialist with a human face. Deconstructionists say that we read whatever baggage we carry with us into Shakespeare. And in a small way, for once the deconstructionists have a point.

The best book about Shakespeare for a generation has just been published. It is *The Genius of Shakespeare* (in both primary senses of *genius*) by Jonathan Bate. It explains how Shakespeare has a human face that suits all characters and fancies. For he was a working actor, a team player and a hack as well as becoming the international icon (in another two-faced Diana cliché) for whom all the world was his stage. The plays, the characters, the sonnets, the words exist in ambiguity and many faces. You can have Prince Hal and Ulysses and Coriolanus for hierarchy in society. But do not forget jolly Jack Falstaff and the poor bleeding people and even Caliban, who gets the best lines in *The Tempest*. We all fancy ourselves as Hamlet. Why is Macbeth more interesting than Duncan? Is Isabella in *Measure for Measure* a saint or a puritanical prig?

Like Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, and Wittenstein's word games, you can find whatever you want in Shakespeare only by watching, acting and reading him. Horace was another "genius" with many faces. Professor Bate says that Lope de Vega had the same universal face as Shakespeare. My Spanish is not good enough to know, but I must give him another go. The Queen is a war child, trained to keep a poker face and never show emotions in public. Her face is both highly disciplined and Elizabethan, and human when off duty. She could and should not suddenly adopt a Lady Di face. But Shakespeare had a human face for her and all of us.

Raj charge

NO SOONER will they have dispatched the Queen from their angry shores than citizens of India will receive an even more colonial British export: 14 descendants of the great Viceroys of India are setting off on a tour of the former Raj. The trip, scheduled for the new year, will be led by the formidable Baroness Thatcher, who grew up in Lahore. "I've spent seven years at the House of Lords, and I found that there's so much affection for India that I wondered, 'why not do something?'"

So she did. Invitations were dispatched to some of the biggest nabob names, inviting them on a

ten-day jaunt in the country that their families ruled. Among those coming are the admirable Countess Mountbatten and her husband, Lord Brabourne, the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, Viscount and Viscountess Ridley and Lady Davina Darcy de Knayth (a descendant of the swashbuckling colonialist, Lord Clive).

To charm the natives, the group will attend the Republic Day parade and the presidential reception in Delhi. Despite the embarrassingly anti-British tone of the celebrations and the viceroys' mixed reputations, the baroness expects a warm welcome. "I would not bring them if the Indian Government was uncomfortable. These are delightful people — we do not want to recreate the Raj."

• IN one evening, an intruder broke into Buckingham Palace, Clarence House and the home of Lord and Lady Soames. The culprit is black and is known to

DIARY

similar call from Queen Elizabeth

Zealand natives while filming. A recording will be sent to Christopher Soames here, get your cat — where do you want it?" This time, the Staffordshire chaise for the nocturnal roamer plus a bottle of champagne for Lady S.

Case history

I prolly around the Stafford Hotel, St James's. His name? Lucky, a cat. "The Palace called saying it had our cat," said the hotel. "They wanted to know what to do. We asked them to leave it in Green Park — he can find his way home from there." An hour on, and a

four underlings roughed it in steerage. Clark stretched out in first-class. Sadly, he overestimated the service. The flight took them via Los Angeles, where Clark assumed his luggage would be transferred. It wasn't. Even first-class, he learnt, should handle their own Louis Vuitton cases. Clark stayed, leaving him in unfamiliar pose, shuffling round Auckland in crumpled garb.

• SHREWSBURY is to record its school song in Maori. This follows a rendition by Michael Palin, an

Naked truth

STEVEN NORRIS's greatest contribution to public life was his inability to keep his trousers up. How appropriate then that he should be mistaken for a stripper in *The Full Monty*.

To the former Transport Minister's chagrin, his double is Tom Wilkinson, who plays the professional disrober Gerald and has an unenviable weakness for garden gnomes. "Having viewed *The Full Monty* routine," says a Norris associate, "he is confident there is positive proof that he and Mr Wilkinson are in no way related." What proof I wonder?

Rock bottom

POP music is to reverberate around our military bases in the desert attempt by the Ministry of Defence to raise money. George Robertson, Defence Secretary, has hit upon the plan, after Gordon Brown's raid on his coffers.

First on will be the Verve, psychadelic rockers currently No 1 in

Rock bottom

the album charts. They are negotiating with the Ministry for permission to use defunct airfields and dry docks for a tour. "I am not too familiar with their music," admits Robertson. This happy situation is about to end. Alasdair McGowan, his special adviser, has a weakness for the group so a copy of its latest work, *Urban Hymns*, is winging its way into the minister's red box. But as Robertson's raid on his coffers.

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THE WRONG SPIN

Do not throw the briefers out with the bathwater

Putting the Government's policies in the best light is one thing; putting the previous Government's policies in the worst light is another. Departmental heads of information are leaving their posts in droves, partly as a reaction to the new administration's attitude to media management. The early enthusiasm for change in government has turned markedly sour.

The latest to go is Jonathan Haslam, formerly John Major's press secretary but since the election, chief information officer at the Department for Education and Employment. His departure for a job in the City was hastened by a disagreement with Stephen Byers, Minister for School Standards. Mr Byers asked him to draft a press release criticising the Conservative Government's education policy. Mr Haslam refused, rightly insisting that this was a party matter.

Government press officers are certainly ripe for modernisation. When Labour ministers came to power, they were shocked by how plodding many of their spokesmen were. The tools of modern communication, such as the pager, the mobile phone and even the home number for evenings and weekends, seemed virtually unknown in Whitehall. They clearly had things to learn from their new masters, and Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's highly political press secretary, set out to train them.

Some were not going to change; they have been dropped down the Whitehall plug-hole. But to lose someone of the calibre of Mr Haslam smacks of carelessness. He might have left anyway, since no other Whitsunday job would match his previous one at the side of the Prime Minister. But he is clearly disillusioned too; and his malaise springs not from Luddism but from principle. The principle that he has upheld — the independence and integrity of the Civil Service — is vital, not just for the good of the country but

also for the good of the Government. Political partisans often find it hard to understand the concept of neutrality — or even the concept that there is more than one way to see a speech, interpret a report or analyse a set of events. If people are not with them, then they are seen as against them.

Some new ministers have been keeping their press officers poorly informed, preferring to use their politically appointed special advisers to brief journalists. In turn, reporters have been using these advisers more because the official press officers are often not fully apprised of what their ministers are doing or planning.

Ministers may think that they are better served by politicised spokesmen, but their partisan approach may soon begin to backfire on the Government. Journalists understand the subtleties of media manipulation and can gradate the degrees of truth they encounter from the system. When a senior political adviser admits in a television programme to lying to journalists, he debases the coinage of his trade and risks the charge that every word is counterfeit. Chief information officers have at least traditionally been trusted not to lie; and if Downing Street instructs them to deny stories that are true but inconvenient, this will diminish their credibility. Trust is hard earned, and easily lost.

The effectiveness of "spinning" is heavily correlated with the perceived success and competence of a government. In the dying days of the last administration, no amount of spin could turn a bad story into a good one. This Government, still widely applauded, has a generally high credibility. But when times are hard, as undoubtedly they will be at some point in the coming five years, ministers may rely too heavily on their political servants. The credibility of their officials will then be at a premium.

THE COLOUR OF MONEY

Disclosure should be the key principle in party finance

Money may make the world go round but its effect on British politics is less predictable. Tony Blair yesterday announced that the Government would introduce legislation to ban foreign donations to political parties and compel contributions over £5,000 to be made public. He also revealed that Sir Patrick Neill would succeed Lord Nolan as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. That body will now examine all aspects of party political finance. Sir Patrick is a man of independence and integrity. He would be wise to consider the limits as well as the attractions of more sweeping reform.

To some extent the committee is being asked to investigate an area where the sources of greatest contention have already passed. The capacity of the Conservatives to accept substantial sums from overseas supporters substantially diminished once Hong Kong returned to China. The extreme disparity in the resources of the two main parties — sharply evident in the early 1980s — has already been eliminated. The Tories, not Labour, are deep in the red. That transformation illustrates an extremely important factor. Money in British politics follows success; it does not create it.

This country already operates a restrictive party finance regime. Expenditure at the constituency level is exceptionally modest. Access to television advertising beyond party election broadcasts is impossible — and properly so. As a consequence our elections are relatively inexpensive and in real terms their level has been broadly stable. There is little evidence that massive spending has any impact on the final parliamentary outcome. If it did then John Major and the Conservatives would probably still be in office. The Referendum Party might well be the official Opposition.

That does not mean that there is no room

for improvement. Mr Blair has emphasised the importance of transparency. Over the past 20 years, not least because of Margaret Thatcher, the climate of opinion has swung strongly against self-regulation. Almost all the professions have been forced to adjust to this new era of external scrutiny. Somewhat reluctantly, MPs were obliged to acknowledge this shift after the first Nolan committee report. Political parties must move in the same, more open, direction. For that reason the two proposals outlined by the Prime Minister deserve cross-party support.

The Neill committee should resist, however, those who will demand a more extensive set of regulations. There are only two difficulties with capping the total amounts spent by parties during election campaigns: principle and practice. It is objectionable in principle to restrict artificially the sums that parties may spend and hence that individuals can subscribe. It will also be entirely impractical to do so. If potential donors cannot support their chosen parties directly they will find other means of achieving the same end. The recent history of American political finance illustrates that truth.

Indeed, the most tragic element of the American melodrama is that the drive to avoid spending limits has undermined the openness that had once been so effective. Britain should avoid the same fate. The public interest is best served by strict disclosure that allows outsiders to compare funds received with favours dispensed. That is real accountability. There might also be a case for tax incentives to encourage the mass membership drives that Labour under Mr Blair has started and the Tories must now follow. The dependence of both main parties on sectional interests should be discouraged. But the best solution is enhanced participation, not unenforceable regulation.

Sound investment

From Mr David H. Walton

Sir, Congratulations to Mr Richard Noble and his dedicated crew in being the first to exceed Mach 1 on the ground (report, October 14). However, I find it churlish to conclude, from remarks he made in a recent radio interview, that these people may have received more assistance from King Hussein and the people of Jordan, who provided them with a fast track, than they did from the City of London.

I am surprised that we have any engineering industry left at all.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. WALTON,
10 St Guthlac's Close, Crowland,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

October 14

The party is over for students who expected to be subsidised throughout four years of undergraduate existence only to move on to employment much more lucrative than those of their contemporaries who started paying income tax as soon as they left school. The Government's proposed reform of higher education will, rightly, force all but the very poorest students to contribute something to the costs of an education which boosts their future earning potential. If individuals wish to cash in on the benefits of a university education, and few study law as a prelude to missionary work, then they must be prepared to borrow for their investment.

Parents, if they can, may wish to support their children at university. Those who have the resources to do so, and choose not to, should certainly be thought the less of. Affection should not diminish with the end of adolescence. But enforced responsibility should. Parents should not be expected in law to indulge their adult offspring any more than grown-up children should be forced in law to turn up for Christmas lunch. The greatest absurdity, however, is having the taxpayer foot the bill for an act which is destructive of any affection on which a family must depend and which will see the law swallow money which was supposed to be saved from the universities.

MOTHERS IN LAW

The serpent's tooth and the lawsuit of a child

Patrick Macdonald, a law student at Aberdeen University, has been granted legal aid to sue his mother for the living expenses required to complete his degree. Others are already following his example. Mr Macdonald's mother is a Scottish Office civil servant whose two eldest daughters are supporting themselves at university and whose other two children are being privately educated at her expense. Her son chose, after his mother's divorce, to live with his bankrupt father. It may be that Mrs Macdonald could find from within her £45,000 salary the resources to support the son who is unhappy lying on the bed he made. That should, however, be a matter for her conscience and not the courts.

That a son should sue his mother in this way is more than just an offence to filial piety, it is a grotesque misuse of the legal system. Mr Macdonald is within his rights, under the Scottish Family Law Act of 1985 but that does not make his actions right. He protests that he has no go to law because he does not wish to go into debt. A proper horror of indebtedness is a decent Scots prejudice but when it leads a man to use the blunt instrument of a writ to bludgeon money from his mother it becomes not proper prudence but ugly selfishness. What makes Mr Macdonald's meanness of spirit worse is the automatic presumption on his part that someone else should pay for his salad days. How much sharper than a

serpent's tooth is the lawsuit of an ungrateful child.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Patent protection in genetic research

From the Chairman of the Association of Medical Research Charities and others

Sir, On October 17 the UK Patent Office holds a consultative meeting over the proposed European Biotechnology Patenting Directive, which the European Parliament overwhelmingly endorsed in July after more than eight years of vigorous debate. The directive seeks to harmonise existing patent law in Europe with reference to biotechnological inventions.

It is absolutely right to ensure that every group and individual has the opportunity to make their views known — and in the course of the debate thus far all the interested parties have put forward their views and been heard. The text accepted by the European Parliament in July (by a vote of 382 to 110) had been significantly improved since its reading in 1995: patents will not be granted for human cloning or human embryo experiments; there is provision for an ethics committee; and further protection is given to animal welfare and the rights of indigenous peoples.

The new Government, and in particular the Science Minister, John Ball, made their support for the directive clear both before and after the British election. We fully endorse their position. All those engaged in medical research — charities, government and industry — believe that genetic research should benefit patients as quickly as possible. Patients help to achieve this.

Without Britain's support biotechnology research will be at risk. If Britain's biotechnology industry — currently the world's second largest after the US and set to generate £9 billion in revenue by the year 2000 — falters or fails, the time horizon will extend considerably for understanding and developing new treatments for diseases such as schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer, diabetes and osteoporosis.

If we strip away the patentability which existing law allows biotechnological invention, we will see research funding slowly disappear or remove itself to the US and Japan where scientific innovation will continue to be supported. If that happens, not only will Britain and Europe lose money and jobs, but the world will find that the chances of discovering new ways of diagnosing, preventing and treating life-threatening illnesses will be severely limited.

Approval of the biotechnology directive is a vital step in securing a better future for everyone. We urge Britain and the 14 other EU member states to move rapidly and adopt it.

Yours faithfully,
BERTH LOGAN,
Chairman, The Association of Medical Research Charities,
DAVID BARNES,
Chief Executive, Zeneca Group plc,
ANDREW BLAKE,
Director,
Seriously Ill for Medical Research,
JAN LESCHLY,
Chief Executive Officer,
SmithKline Beecham plc,
MICHAEL J. REISS,
Senior Lecturer in Biology,
Homerton College, Cambridge,
TIM ROBERTS,
Chairman, The Chartered Institute of Patent Agents,
RICHARD SYKES,
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Glanz Welcome plc,
Association of Medical Research Charities,
29-35 Faringdon Road, EC1.

October 16

From Mr David H. Walton

Sir, Congratulations to Mr Richard Noble and his dedicated crew in being the first to exceed Mach 1 on the ground (report, October 14). However, I find it churlish to conclude, from remarks he made in a recent radio interview, that these people may have received more assistance from King Hussein and the people of Jordan, who provided them with a fast track, than they did from the City of London.

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Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. WALTON,
10 St Guthlac's Close, Crowland,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

October 14

From Mr David H. Walton

Sir, Final confirmation from the MoD of its decision to decommission HMY Britannia, with no provision for her replacement (report, October 11), is both short-sighted and ill-judged.

According to the ministry's own plans for a new Royal Yacht, she would cost a maximum of £64 million to build — slightly less than the weekly cost of our membership of the European Union which, according to the Office for National Statistics, is £66 million.

Parents, if they can, may wish to support their children at university. Those who have the resources to do so, and choose not to, should certainly be thought the less of. Affection should not diminish with the end of adolescence. But enforced responsibility should. Parents should not be expected in law to indulge their adult offspring any more than grown-up children should be forced in law to turn up for Christmas lunch. The greatest absurdity, however, is having the taxpayer foot the bill for an act which is destructive of any affection on which a family must depend and which will see the law swallow money which was supposed to be saved from the universities.

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Memorial garden in a modern spirit

From Mr Charles Jencks

Sir, The idea of a memorial garden for Diana, Princess of Wales, is very fitting (Weekend, October 11); as the saying goes "take your grief to nature".

And the banal landscape in front of Kensington Palace asks for some imaginative scheme. However, an 18th-century Dutch replica is not appropriate at all.

I agree with John Dixon Hunt, Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, that a competition should be called for a contemporary creation which engages the public, as Diana did. A revival, based on Haarlem's 1708 aerial sketch, would not only be too flat and low in elevation, but also would not provide the variety of open spaces and mystery which are needed in a memorial garden.

Some contemporary works of art, some dramatic celebration of nature — water gardens, level changes, kinetic sculpture — would feel constrained and lonely in the centre of Haarlem's flat parterres. Above all, this design does not have those private, contemplative and sometimes wild spaces which are essential to thoughtful re-collecting.

Sincerely,
CHARLES JENCKS,
19 Lansdowne Walk, W11.
October 13.

From Mr Richard Weston

FRSA, RIBA

Sir, In the 18th century, disdain for the formality and "princely pomp" of

gardens in the Dutch and French styles was the catalyst for our most radical contribution to the visual arts: the English landscape garden, imitated around the world, gave form to a new political as well as aesthetic vision.

After years of marginalisation, landscape design is alive with new ideas. A contemporary garden in memory of Diana would be a fitting tribute to her modernity and an emblem of the Government's commitment to promoting creativity as a defining feature of a "new Britain".

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WESTON
(Landscape architect),
Radiant World,
57 Lamborne Road, Leicester.
October 12.

From Mr Peter King

Sir, The proposal to recreate the historic gardens at Kensington Palace should be supported as, at least, there is no contemporary designer who has a background of work on such a grand scale. However, its execution should perhaps be given to the team which completed the highly-praised Privy Garden at Hampton Court, rather than leaving it in the hands of the Royal Parks Agency.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KING
(Editor, *The Good Gardens Guide*),
Nicholas Corner,
Sibford Gower,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.
October 15.

From Mr Hew Balfour

Sir, As a tenant on the Glenfeshie estate in the Cairngorms I cannot agree with the suggestion by the World Wide Fund for Nature, Scotland, that the conservation of forests is incompatible with private ownership and sporting interests (report, October 9).

Since there have been no sheep on Glenfeshie since the mid-1980s, overgrazing by sheep cannot be responsible for the destruction of the forest in the last 30 years at the WWF asserts.

And the claim by a representative of the WWF that he "could not find a tree under 150 years old" is equally curious: there are many thousands of trees in Glenfeshie, all under 30 years old, planted in blocks and temporarily fenced off to prevent damage by deer.

Public ownership and the elimination of sporting interests would do nothing for the native wildlife population, since it would be likely to remove the jobs of the gamekeepers and stalkers who are the natural guardians of those populations.

Any suggestion that the elimination of deer would help to regenerate the Caledonian pine would be impossible to fulfil, since deer are migratory. It would also be a curious policy for the

market for the third time in a few years reflects the great difficulty of managing a property in which outside environmental organisations have a say. In the words of a local stalker, the present owners are selling "because of the hassle caused by Scottish Natural Heritage and numerous other pumped-up bodies round about".

Yours sincerely,
HEW BALFOUR,
Ruchlaw House,
Stenton, Dunbar, East Lothian.

From Mr Duff Hart-Davis

Sir, During his 20-year ownership of the estate, from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s, the late Lord Duthie made enormous efforts to reafforest Glenfeshie, putting in numerous plantations and shelter-belts. It is true that most of these trees were exotic species, like sitka spruce and lodgepole pine, but he also got estate staff to collect seed from old Scots pines and to create new plantations of the very species which constituted the ancient Caledonian forest.

The fact that the estate is now on the market for the third time in a few years reflects the great difficulty of managing a property in which outside environmental organisations have a say. In the words of a local stalker, the present owners are selling "because of the hassle caused by Scottish Natural Heritage and numerous other pumped-up bodies round about".

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WILDMAN
(Curator, Ruskin Library,
Lancaster University,
Lancaster LA1 4YH).
October 13.

From Mr Jim Platts

Sir, The 1828 Charter of the Institution of Civil Engineers (the oldest professional engineering institution in the world) defines engineering as "the art of directing the great sources of power in nature for the use and convenience of man".

Engineering uses science and embodies an ethic, but it is an art — and Birmingham has many world-renowned ex



COURT CIRCULAR

TAJ CORMANDEL HOTEL, CHENNAI

The Queen this morning visited MGR Film City, Chennai, watched a film showing the life of a representative of the film industry.

Her Majesty afterwards visited the Kalakshetra Foundation, Thrivambani, and viewed dancing instruction and handicrafts and a short classical Indian dancing recital.

The Queen later attended a Luncheon at the British Council's Cove.

Her Majesty this afternoon visited Ekambareswara Temple, Kanchipuram.

The Queen afterwards paid a Wreath at the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial.

Her Majesty this evening attended a Dinner given by the Governor of Tamil Nadu (Justice M. Pathman Baval) at the Taj Coromandel Hotel.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Western Naval Command, Mumbai (Bombay).

His Royal Highness afterwards closed the British Business Seminar on board HMS Westminster and attended a Reception.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon flew to Dungdul and visited the Indian Air Force Academy.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited Gopalganj Primary School.

The Duke of Edinburgh inter called upon Shri Chandrababu Naidu (Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh) at his residence.

His Royal Highness subsequently attended a Reception at Jubilee Hall.

His Excellency Mr Andrija Kojakovic was received in audience by The Prince of Wales and The Duke of York, Captain of St. George's Chapel, Royal Household of the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Croatia to the Court of St James's.

Mr Kojakovic was also received by Her Royal Highnesses.

Mr John Major, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was present.

The Queen was represented by Mr James Cooper (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cumbria) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Major Sir Charles Graham, St. (formerly Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cumbria) which was held in Carlisle Cathedral.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by the Earl of Lonsdale.

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The Princess, as a member of the Royal Family, attended a Reception given by the Mayor of Phoenix at Arizona Center Two.

Princess Alexandra and the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy this afternoon began a visit to Phoenix, Arizona, United States of America in connection with the USAF Festival.

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NEWS

Civil servant quits over 'spinning'

■ Tensions over apparent attempts to turn civil servants into government spin doctors grew as a senior information officer resigned and a minister was reportedly rebuked after a row about a "political" press release.

Jonathan Haslam became the eighth senior information officer to leave after a bitter wrangle with the Education Minister Stephen Byers over a sentence critical of the Tories in a statement about parents' choice of schools. Page 1

Royal Family will change its image

■ The Queen has accepted that the Royal Family must change its image after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, senior Palace officials have told *The Times*. There will be no sudden switch of style but a source close to the Queen spoke of the need to demonstrate "softer, gentler touches". Pages 1, 17

Playground ban

New laws banning paedophiles from schools, playgrounds and other risk areas are expected to be introduced by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, within the next few weeks. Page 1

Record book deal

An unknown British writer has been awarded what is claimed to be a record £420,000 advance for a first or second novel. Page 8

Ireland's choice

Two weeks from today, a little-known Belfast law professor is expected to become Ireland's first northern President after one of the republic's more curious elections. Page 18

Driftnet ban

The RSPCA called for a ban on the use of drift nets by British fishermen, saying that they were devastating marine life. Page 12

Jews arrested

Ten Jewish residents of Jerusalem have been arrested for allegedly supplying explosives to Palestinians for use in terrorist attacks against targets in Israel. Page 13

Found in Paradise

One of France's most wanted men, a former official of President Chirac's Gaullists implicated in a party-funding scandal, has been traced to Paradise Island in the Bahamas. Page 14

Clinton inquiry

Janet Reno, the US Attorney-General, has tried to appease Republican critics by promising not to close any part of her inquiry into fundraising by President Clinton or Vice-President Al Gore without prior FBI approval. Page 15

Cyclist breaks the radar barrier

■ A woman who wanted to lose weight was stopped by police on her bicycle after speeding through a radar trap at 43mph. Ros Jones, 43, was advised to take up gentle cycling by her slimming instructor to help to reduce her weight. Mrs Jones, of Golden Grove, Carmarthenshire, decided to use her daughter's bicycle for a daily seven-mile trip. Page 1



Sergeant Darrell Barnes of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police escorts the Grenadier Guards Band at Buckingham Palace yesterday

BUSINESS

WH Smith: The retailer wants to demerge the Waterstone's bookshop chain and sell its shareholding in Virgin Our Price record stores. Page 25

Telcom: AT&T, the largest US telephone group, is lobbying regulators to impose strict conditions if they allow GTE's £17.5 billion bid for MCI to go ahead. Page 45

EMU: Sterling's recent volatility makes it unrealistic for Britain to join the single European currency in 1999, Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Monetary Institute, said. Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 24.2 to 3279.9. Sterling fell from 100.3 to 99.8 after a fall from \$1.6235 to \$1.6208 and from DM2.8241 to DM2.8267. Page 43

Football: Manchester United confirmed an interest in signing the Chile striker, Marcelo Salas, but denied reports that they had offered £13 million. Page 48

Golf: Mark O'Meara, of the US, kept the defending champion's hopes alive in the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews with victory over Eduardo Romero. Page 45

Motor racing: In order to clinch the world title, Jacques Villeneuve must finish ahead of Michael Schumacher in the final Formula One race of the season. Page 48

Rugby union: Philippe Saint-Andre, Thierry Lacroix and Laurent Cabannes, all of whom play their trade with English clubs, have been selected to play for France against Italy. Page 43

Classic mistake: "What compels a genius to attempt something for which neither temperament nor training has equipped him?" Richard Morrison writes about Sir Paul McCartney. Page 35

McMoneys' disaster: With its rich mixture of the realistic and modern with the fantastic and mythical, *Shintoku-Maria* brings theatre back to the Barbican. Page 35

Miss hit: William Alwyn's opera version of Strindberg's *Miss Julie* receives its stage premiere at Norwich, which knows a good thing when it sees one. Page 36

Malled down: After the frenzy of the past few years Jimmy Nail is taking it easy — just a tour, a new album and a couple of screenplays: the top pop releases. Page 37

French theme: Paris Fashion Week is scarcely French any more, says Grace Bradberry, Style Editor — the most famous *ateliers* have been overrun by Britons. Page 18

Feminist fury: As Germaine Greer attacks the women's magazine culture of sexual availability, *Vogue* is profiling the kitten woman to all her fluffy glory. Kimberly Fortier and Erica Wagner debate the issue. Page 19

Dragon Awards: Recognition to businesses that help to improve inner-city life. Page 33

Denis MacShane: Should taxpayers pay for democracy? The question Sir Patrick Neil has to answer is not a new one. Pound by pound, decade by decade, the political process has got its hands on public money. Page 20

MATTHEW PARRIS

Looking in, during Labour's Brighton conference, on the Stonewall lobbying group's gay equality attack, you might have suspected that heterosexual partygoers outnumbered gay ones. You would have been right. Page 20

DENIS MACSHANE

Should taxpayers pay for democracy? The question Sir Patrick Neil has to answer is not a new one. Pound by pound, decade by decade, the political process has got its hands on public money. Page 20

PHILIP HOWARD

According to Chris Thomas, our man in Delhi, the Queen is about to launch a more people-friendly monarchy when she returns from her state visits. A senior Palace source described the project to him as "monarchy with a human face". Page 20

DONALD HORROBIN

Tom Ewer, professor of animal husbandry; Murray Burnett, playwright. Page 23

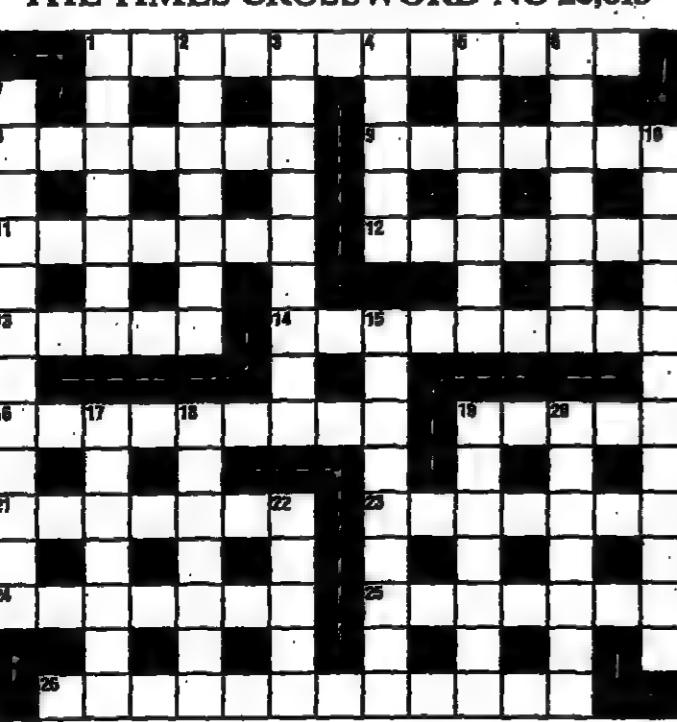
PATENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Seen from France, the recent Italian crisis irresistibly revokes a new episode in a political theatre as confusing as it is entertaining. — *Le Monde* Page 21

NEWSQUE

Memorial garden for Diana; Yehudi Menuhin on the price of violins; forestry and conservation. Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,613



ACROSS
1 The language of Hamlet — old lines providing quite a mouthful (6,6).
2 Start to fall, catching right foot (7).
3 Go back to capture pawn that's unable to escape (7).
4 Suitable arboreal habitat for stick insects (3,4).
5 Drink tea blended as one prefers (2,5).
6 Gold, say, was in contact with aluminum (5).
14 Teachers dropping out each quarter before head makes short speech (9).
16 Small movement of sea, despite an explosion (4,5).
19 Boy behind mother who wears apron (3).
21 Finally buying land to develop (7).
SOLUTION to Puzzle No 20,612

ON THE LEVEL HACK
I O I A I A I
AGNOSTIC EMBLEM
H H T C I E A
STRAFE IGNORANT
W R N N
HELP BREAKWATER
A A U E T P
PROPAGATOR ECHO
F E A S E
CLERICAL SMARMY
L E D O I T E R
NAPALM BLOOMERS
M C I O N E A
JACK CLYDESDALE

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Everybody has
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Pazienza emerges
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to meet Graham
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TELEVISION
AND
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY OCTOBER 17 1997

Tim Waterstone 'appalled' at sell-off after second offer is rejected

WH Smith in demerger U-turn

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

WH SMITH performed a strategic U-turn yesterday after rejecting a second set of takeover proposals from Tim Waterstone, the founder of the group's bookstore chain.

Jeremy Hardie, chairman of WH Smith, who six weeks ago ruled out a break-up of the retail group, revealed plans to demerge the Waterstone's business and to sell its Virgin/Our Price music business and The Wall, its US music business.

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Mr Waterstone, who started at WH Smith, said he was appalled that the group was ridding itself of the business he founded in 1981 and sold to WH Smith eight years later.

WH Smith will concentrate on its 413-store high street chain, news distribution business and on international and travel retail operations.

Richard Handover, who became chief executive two

weeks ago, denied that Mr Waterstone's approaches had forced a reverse in strategy, although he said they had spurred on the process of change. "The process has been going on for a considerable period of time, not just the last two weeks," he said.

The company said that the new version of Mr Waterstone's original plan, which it threw out on October 1, "does not make a significant difference to the original proposals". They were therefore "unanimously rejected on the basis that they are not in the best interest of shareholders, do not create any significant value and are not financially sound".

WH Smith's plan received a lukewarm response from the market. The shares closed up just 3p at 405p, supported by hopes that a buyer would emerge for Waterstone's before it is demerged. Tony Shiret, retail analyst at BZW, said that Waterstone's and Virgin/Our Price would both compete head-on with the



Book sale: Jeremy Hardie, pictured, announced that Waterstone's shops are to be sold off

main WH Smith chain. However, better operational management of the WH Smith chain should lead to some improvements in the currently poor margins, he said.

He said a buyer, perhaps one of the leading US book chains currently eyeing the British market, is likely to appear for Waterstone's. Other analysts were more sceptical, saying that US businesses were loath to pay the high prices that successful British retail businesses command.

Alan Giles, who now runs Waterstone's, is set to be chief executive of the chain after he demerges the 100-store business next spring. It is expected to be valued at between £300 million and £350 million.

Mr Hardie said that, apart

from losing Mr Giles, no other changes are expected at WH Smith's board. He said that he had come under no pressure to quit and has no intention of leaving the group.

Mr Waterstone and his partner, Ian Gibson, the chairman of Unigate, said that they would not be making a hostile bid although they remain keen to talk to the board about their

proposal. Mr Waterstone said: "Jan and I are genuinely saddened by today's developments."

He criticised WH Smith's new strategy. "It appalls me that WH Smith's solution is to package Waterstone's in a fashion in which it can, and almost certainly will, be sold to the highest bidder in a fashion that is tax efficient to the shareholders. This may create short-term value, but to take the best performing retail brand out of the portfolio makes no sense whatsoever."

Virgin, which recently indicated it would pay up to £135 million to buy WH Smith's share of the Virgin/Our Price business, of which it owns 25 per cent, is still seen as the most likely buyer. However, the complexities of the joint venture agreement could make a quick sale unlikely.

Selling The Wall is expected to also be a lengthy business because of the poor state of the US music market.

WH Smith retail, run by Beverley Hobson, will concentrate on books, stationery and magazines.

Clarke to join BAT as £23bn link is agreed

BY MARIANNE CURPHEN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE, the cigar-loving former Chancellor, is to become a non-executive deputy chairman of British American Tobacco, his third City directorship since he lost the Conservative Party leadership.

The news came as BAT Industries confirmed the £23 billion merger of its financial services arm with Zurich Group, the Swiss insurer.

Earl Cairns, who is chairman of BAT Industries and will head the UK-listed end of the new Zurich Financial Services (ZFS) Group, cautioned that there would be "some initial reduction", perhaps up to 20 per cent, in the initial dividend payout.

ZFS will pay BAT £500 million, take on £800 million of debt and take over Eagle Star, Allied Dunbar, Farmers of the US and Threadneedle. Rolf Hüppi, chairman and chief executive of Zurich Group, will head the ZFS Group. He intends to keep the UK brands intact.

Martin Broughton, currently deputy chairman of BAT, will be chairman of British American Tobacco. The tobacco business will restructure their £4 billion debt, while the operations of Zurich and British American Financial Services (BAFS) will be transferred to a new Zurich-based company.

Mr Hüppi declined to discuss how many of the 66,000 staff in the merged company would lose their jobs.

ZFS will be one of the world's biggest insurers with \$42 billion (£21 billion) under management. Zurich shareholders will own 55 per cent of the new company and BAT shareholders 45 per cent.

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GTE faces curbs on \$28bn alliance

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

AT&T, the largest US telephone group, is lobbying US regulators to impose strict conditions if they allow GTE's \$28 billion (£17.5 billion) bid for MCI to go ahead.

The bid, if successful, will resurrect BT's global strategy as it is likely to play a major role in the new GTE-MCI alliance. According to insiders, GTE has been in contact with BT since the WorldCom bid two weeks ago.

BT is believed to have cooperated with GTE to launch what could turn out to be a white knight rescue. A US think-tank is a key part of BT's strategy to transform itself into a global heavyweight in telecommunications.

A three-way deal would give AT&T a partner with a local and long-distance capacity to rival AT&T. Andy Moffat, analyst at Société Générale, the broker, said: "It's a much stronger outcome than the MCI merger. They are now getting a partner who is a major US player."

AT&T said: "We fully expect the Government to require GTE to get serious about opening its local markets to real competition and to stop erecting economic roadblocks to the speedy implementation of the 1996 Telecommunications Act". The deregulatory Act sparked the merger frenzy.

Tempus, page 28

Tempus, page 28

Volatile pound to keep euro at distance

BY JANET BURR
AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

STERLING'S recent volatility makes it unrealistic for Britain to join the single European currency in 1999, Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Monetary Institute, said yesterday.

The institute, which is due to become the European Central Bank at the start of economic and monetary union, will be an important voice in next year's deliberations about which countries will join the euro in the first wave.

In a German newspaper yesterday, Mr Duisenberg made it clear that he takes seriously the provision of the Maastricht treaty that calls for a stable exchange rate for at least two years before joining the single currency. "I would consider it important for the British to be able to demonstrate exchange-rate stability over several years and for at least two years. So far, however, we have seen nothing but sizeable fluctuations," he said.

His remarks coincide with comments by Andrew Sentance, director of the Centre for Economic Forecasting at the London Business School, arguing that recent volatility of the pound virtually rules out UK EMU entry in 1999.

The British Chambers of Commerce yesterday also urged the Government to make a clear statement of intent on joining EMU.

The pound closed at 99.8 on its effective index compared with 100.3 on Wednesday, and its peak in July of 106.7.

Economists remain confident that the Government is on course to meet its full-year targets, even though the public sector borrowing requirement was about £1 billion higher than expected, at £3.1 billion, against £3.4 billion last September.

But the PSBR for the first six months of this year was £8.6 billion, compared with £5.7 billion at the same stage last year. Excluding privatisation receipts, the half-yearly PSBR is at its lowest level since 1990.

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Paper tigers: Jim Brown, left, Newsquest chairman, celebrating yesterday's flotation with John Pissi, finance director

Newsquest value set at £500m

BY OUR MEDIA EDITOR

SHARES of Newsquest, the local newspaper group, ended their first day of stock market trading at 252p yesterday, putting a value of £500 million on the company.

The share offering, which was oversubscribed, was priced at 250p for its stock market debut — the lower end of the expected range — and raised a total of £100 million.

Jim Brown, executive

chairman of Newsquest, said that he was pleased at the successful float in what he said were "very difficult market conditions".

More than 80 per cent of Newsquest staff subscribed for shares.

The market valued Newsquest shares at an 8 per cent discount to Trinity International, a rival newspaper group, and at a near-12 per cent discount to Johnson

Press. Commenting on the gentle start to trading yesterday, Mr Brown said: "I suspect that once the market sees the value in the business the shares will move up." He also praised staff for participating in the flotation.

The company has around £190 million in debt from the original management buyout from Reed Elsevier and the acquisition of the Westminster Press regional newspaper

group from Pearson. Part of the £100 million raised will go to reducing debt and part to fund future development.

Following the flotation, RRN Associated, a partner organised by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, holds 40.4 per cent of the company, and Civen 14.3 per cent. The management owns 3.7 per cent of the company.

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Big investors unhappy over £1.5bn T&N bid

BY CARL MORTISHER

FEDERAL-MOGUL's £1.5 billion bid for T&N, the motor parts manufacturer, received a less than rapturous reception from leading shareholders. Yesterday's recommended bid, struck at 260p per share, is an 11 per cent increase on Federal-Mogul's indicative offer, revealed last month. The price was then roundly rejected by PPFM, M&G and Schroders, who together own almost half of the company.

One leading shareholder said: "We don't think this fully reflects the value of the company. The question is: do we take what's on offer, now or do we wait for T&N to get there on its own?"

T&N will declare a final dividend of 3p, providing accepting shareholders with 263p per share. Sir Colin Hope, chairman, who will become international adviser to Federal-Mogul, said it was

a good deal for Federal-Mogul and said he had discussed the bid with "all of the leading chief executives in the industry". He said: "Bearing in mind the extent to which the stock market has undervalued T&N, the cash offer is at a level which the board of T&N can recommend to shareholders."

Federal-Mogul's £1.5 billion bid is being financed with a bridging loan from Chase Manhattan which is expected to be refinanced in equity.

Dick Snell, Federal-Mogul's chairman, expects to achieve £100 million (£52 million) of annual savings from the takeover in the second year. The merged company will have a 90 per cent share in the US bearings market.

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Share rights lift chief's pay to £6.8m at BSkyB

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

SAM CHISHOLM, who retires as chief executive of British Sky Broadcasting at the end of this year, pushed his take-home pay to a record in 1997 — £6.83 million. The package compares with £3.84 million last year. The main reason for the rise is that Mr Chisholm exercised a right to 1.7 million "notional shares" arising from the BSkyB flotation, which lead to a profit of £5.12 million.

After he retires, Mr Chisholm will remain a non-executive director for two years and will receive his full pay under a revised service agreement for an average of ten days a month. He will be paid per working day based on his existing salary and entitlement in the management bonus scheme.

Elizabeth Murdoch, BSkyB general manager and an alternate director, had total remuneration, including pension, of £298,103.

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David Jones, the entrepreneur who founded ShareLink, surveying work at his creation, whose American parent company is renaming it to reflect an international strategy

US parent to rename ShareLink broker

By RICHARD MILES

SHARELINK, the telephone-based stockbroker founded in 1987, is to disappear at the end of this year. Its American parent, Charles Schwab, yesterday said it is to drop the ShareLink name in favour of its own.

Charles Schwab, a US brokerage bought ShareLink two years ago from its founder, David Jones, for £30.5 million, and now wants to use it as a springboard for expansion into continental Europe.

Guy Knight, vice-president, said that the name ShareLink did not fit Charles Schwab's wider ambitions, which could lead the broker into institutional business, as well as extending its services to wealthy private investors.

"We are the UK division of an international company, and we are more and more looking for international growth," he said, adding that Charles Schwab had set itself the goal of growing its £350 billion of customer assets to \$1 billion by 2005.

ShareLink, to be rebranded Charles Schwab Europe by the end of the year, has been criticised for poor service standards, with many clients complaining that its telephone lines were always engaged.

BCC voices concern over effects of strong pound

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE British Chambers of Commerce said yesterday that manufacturers' profits and confidence were suffering from a sharp decline in export activity caused by the strong pound and stiff domestic competition, both at home and overseas.

A sharp decline in the levels of home and export orders taken over the last three months indicates that the situation is not likely to improve in the short term.

The BCC said that manufac-

turers were absorbing rising costs by reducing profits and in that context interest rates "should stay where they are for the time being". Rates should stay "as low as possible", since any new rise would push sterling up still further.

Ian Peters, BCC deputy director-general, said business did not believe that the pound could be talked down in the long term although it accepted that positive indications on economic and monetary union

had helped to ease the pressure on industry from high sterling.

But he added: "A statement from the Chancellor making clear our intentions with regard to EMU (those intentions should be that we should not enter in the first wave, but at a later point) would help reduce the value of the pound."

The BCC's latest survey of 8,000 companies shows a "significant deterioration" in export sales, with manufacturers' exports now

falling. It said the warnings business had been giving about the strength of the pound were now coming true.

Having lost export orders, manufacturers would find it very difficult to regain them, particularly since strong domestic activity meant that imports made more attractive by sterling's strength were being sucked into the UK economy, with the result that only a third of manufacturers were forecasting improving profitability.

Promising vaccine boosts Medeva

By PAUL DURMAN

MEDEVA, the pharmaceuticals company, plans to file for regulatory approval of the hepatitis B vaccine that is potentially its most important product to date.

The company, best known for its methylphenidate treatment for hyperactive children, yesterday released trial results that suggested its Hepagene vaccine has some significant

benefits over existing products. It also reported results that suggest Hepagene can be used to "cure" chronic carriers of the hepatitis B virus.

Medeva hopes to take 20 to 30 per cent of the vaccine market. If approval is granted, it may be able to start selling the vaccine by the end of 1999. Medeva shares rose 20½p to 245½p.

Electricity bills to fall £24

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY bills will be cut by an average £24 over the next two years, under price controls to be implemented when the household market opens to competition next April.

Low-income customers on pre-payment meters will benefit from the same cost reductions, Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, said.

The bill cuts will average 9 per cent after two years with 6 per cent being cut next year

and 3 per cent the following year. But reductions will vary considerably from region to region.

London faces the highest bill cut at 14.8 per cent over two years, followed by Eastern at 11.9 per cent. ScottishPower bills will fall just 5.2 per cent.

Regional electricity companies now have one month to decide whether to accept controls, which have been watered down from a regime that would have cut £32 off an

average bill. Regional companies claim that not enough pressure is being exerted on the generators, whose prices account for more than half of an electricity bill.

Yesterday the electricity pool, the wholesale market for power, agreed to vote on a review of its trading procedures at next week's annual meeting.

But consumer groups are demanding action from the Department for Trade and Industry.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES LIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

Best shows, best seats

The floor of the Royal Albert Hall will be wash for the first time in its 126-year history when a new production of *Madam Butterfly* opens there in February.

A Japanese water garden complete with a series of walkways and bridges leading to *Madam Butterfly*'s house — sitting on stilts — is to be built for Puccini's opera.

This opera-in-the-round promises to be a spectacular experience and is just one of the exciting offers *The Times* has arranged for readers during the autumn and winter seasons.

The opera, which will be performed between February 19 and 27, is directed by David Freeman, founder of the Opera Factory, one of whose recent productions was *A Winter's Tale* at the

new Globe Theatre. This new production of *Madam Butterfly* is the fourth joint project by the Royal Albert Hall and Raymond Gubbay and follows the success of *La Bohème* last year and *Carmen* and *Swan Lake* earlier this year.

Times readers can enjoy priority booking for all performances. Ticket prices range from £18.50 to £39.50. A £2 booking fee per ticket applies. All shows begin at 7.30pm and finish at approximately 10.20pm. Offer closes October 24, 1997.

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THE SNAKE IN THE GRASS
AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

CHANGING TIMES

Utilities lead bad bill payers

Nationwide to deter speculators

By CAROLINE MERRILL

UTILITIES are among the worst bill payers in the country, followed by financial services groups, brewers and the motor industry, new private research claims. By contrast, banks and grocers are relatively good at meeting their obligations (Graham Seay writes).

Firms in the four laggard sectors take on average more than 60 days to meet invoices from suppliers, according to Experian, the information service company. Its analysis of payment records of 250,000 trading companies found that utilities take an average 61.78 days to pay against 50.68 days for firms in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, the best of 28 industrial sectors.

Among big firms, construction and equipment hire are rated the worst, taking an average 75 days. But utilities (73 days) and financial services (72 days) are not far behind. Big banks, best of the heavyweights, manage to pay bills in 64 days.

In July alone, £1.3 billion was transferred to the society, much of this new money coming from carpebaggers.

Utilities lead bad bill payers

Nationwide to deter speculators

By CAROLINE MERRILL

NATIONWIDE, the UK's biggest building society, hopes to deter speculators by forcing new customers to sign an agreement promising to give any windfall after a demutualisation to charity.

The society, which this year successfully defended itself against an attempt by carpebaggers to get elected to the board to force a flotation, wants to try to stop people opening accounts in order to get higher prices. As a result of the changes, which include reorganising to reflect market sectors rather than geographic areas, there will be an exceptional charge of £35 million in 1997.

Cable firm changes tack

GENERAL CABLE, the fourth-largest quoted cable television company, has lost patience with the way it has to sell cable television and is to concentrate on telecommunications services, with the emphasis on offering packages of telephone and cable television services. New customers who want to buy packages of television channels on their own will have to pay higher prices. As a result of the changes, which include reorganising to reflect market sectors rather than geographic areas, there will be an exceptional charge of £35 million in 1997.

BA in Finnair pact

BRITISH AIRWAYS has signed a co-operation agreement with Finnair, Finland's national carrier. The two companies will share their frequent-flyer programs and develop routes, customer service and marketing together. Finnair hopes to counter existing alliances between rival operators by forging a link with BA. No mutual ownership or changes in personnel are planned, said Anne Pöhl, Finnair chief executive. Finnair last year flew 6.2 million passengers. It has 45 overseas destinations and 21 within Finland.

Prudential announce a rate change of great interest to savers

Prudential Banking plc is pleased to announce an increase in its 60 Day Notice Account interest rates as indicated below. Customers can make the first two withdrawals without notice, penalty free. The 60 Day Notice Account minimum opening balance for new customers will be £3,000.

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30/10/97
Kerneth Clarke's sense of humour is clearly given free reign as he builds a choice portfolio of lucrative jobs to run alongside his position as a backbench MP. Who but the former Chancellor would think of pairing the chairmanship of a chemist's business with the deputy chairmanship of a tobacco company?

Former Chancellors, however, are becoming unpredictable. Lord Lawson of Blaby has plunged, with some success, into the hugely competitive field of writing diet books. In his spare time, he found time to make commercials for one unit trust company while sitting on the board of a rival financial organisation. Ken Clarke is fitting in a temporary stint presenting a jazz programme on the radio before getting into the serious business of selling cigarettes. Whether that, too, is to be only temporary depends on the strength of his teasing about whether or not he still harbours ambitions to lead the Tory Party.

Yesterday BAT was being coy about it will be paying Mr Clarke for his contribution, but it will certainly be a useful top up to his backbencher's pay. Apart from being a jolly chap to have around at board meetings, and a dedicated user of the product, it is not quite clear what else he will have to contribute to the company. The main emphasis for BAT is in expanding into new and far flung markets and, despite his long

stint in government, Mr Clarke is not particularly well placed to open doors overseas for the company.

But quite why Martin Broughton should have opted for the fun-loving jazz fan as his deputy is only one of the unanswered questions hovering over BAT's £23 million deal with Zurich Insurance.

The City had hoped for elucidation yesterday but was left still puzzling as to why BAT has opted for this route to demerger rather than the off-mooted link with Commercial Union.

Although the fast gathering trend is towards the globalisation of insurance companies, the decision to keep all the existing brands, including the perennially problematic Eagle Star, is puzzling. Quite how this is going to enable cost savings of £150 million to be made remains unclear, and Rolf Huppi, Zurich's chairman, is keeping mum on the subject.

With the imagination for which his countrymen are renowned, the UK end of the business is now to be quoted in London as Allied Zurich.

If the strategy for this business is still behind something of a smoke haze, the prospects for

BAT look somewhat clearer. As a pure tobacco company, a term that Ken Clarke would surely appreciate, BAT may command a higher rating than it has when mixed in with financial services.

With its debt burden restricted, the company will be in a stronger position to expand into areas where the full delights of tobacco are only just beginning to be appreciated. Perhaps the Chancellor could help in the marketing?

Kissing Hardie goodbye

Preventing WH Smith from turning into the next Sears demands the attention of a serious, professional chairman and an inspired chief executive. Unfortunately, the company has neither.

Richard Handover has had an inauspicious start as chief executive and Jeremy Hardie's

Question of BAT — and all that jazz



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

performance as chairman has been frankly, amateurish. It was Mr Hardie, lest we forget, who appointed Bill Cockburn as chief executive, only to watch him quit as soon as he got a better offer.

The search over the summer for a new chief executive was an embarrassing affair, with names popping up and being swept aside with alarming regularity, making any sensible search impossible and the selection of Mr Handover, a company veteran, a dull inevitability.

Mr Hardie's reaction to the approach from Tim Waterstone verged on the hysterical. The public rubbishing, without any warning, to Mr Waterstone, made it easy for the bookseller to insist that he had a right to be taken seriously — however dubious his proposals.

Similarly, however much the company protested that it had already been moving towards the new half-baked strategy it revealed yesterday, the timing

made it impossible to take its claim seriously.

No one appears to know quite how or why Mr Hardie ever became chairman of WH Smith. He was on the board from 1988, became deputy chairman in 1992 and took the chair in 1994. Before that, he taught economics at Oxford and was once deputy chairman of the MMC. His interests are the arts and Liberal politics — he was once an SDP candidate. This makes him sound alarmingly similar to another retail chairman, J Sainsbury's Lord Sainsbury of Turville, whose reputation also carries the whiff of amateurism.

Mr Hardie insisted yesterday that he has come under no pressure to leave. The institutional investors have presumably been too polite to tell him to his face. Some of them ought to remind themselves how much money they lost being polite by giving Sears' management the benefit of the doubt.

However busy WH Smith's high-powered non-executives may be, they would be doing their duty if they were to ascertain the true feelings of the shareholders, and then tell Mr Hardie to look elsewhere for a sinecure. WH Smith has no room left for mistakes, and not replacing him would be its worst mistake yet.

Locking stable door before EMU bolts

Gordon Brown cannot apparently have it all his own way. He wants a lower pound to help Britain's hard-pressed exporters, and hints from the Treasury that the Government is warming towards the euro have been quite effective in depressing sterling in recent weeks. The British Chambers of Commerce yesterday asked for an even clearer statement of positive intent to bring the pound down further.

But these valiant efforts on behalf of British industry have now attracted some unwelcome attention from Europe's single currency ideologues. Yesterday, the Chancellor was irritably reminded that sterling is supposed to be stable for at least two years before qualifying for membership of the euro. The President of the European Monetary Institute talked disparagingly about the pound's sizeable fluctuations.

In the year to July, sterling appreciated a whopping 30 per cent against the mark. A clever bit of EMU spin has knocked the pound down some 7 per cent from its peak and there is little doubt that the Chancellor would like to see this slide extended.

Here's the rub. Sterling has actually been quite stable at a high level for some six months. If the pound were to hold on to much of its appreciation, Britain could be fit for monetary union in 18 months. But pushing the pound into another downward leg would be seen as another bout of volatility and leave Britain back at square one on its exchange rate credentials.

A lot of hot air

IT HAD to happen. Albert Fisher is now worried that the El Niño weather front may affect some of its food businesses. This comes on top of historic calamities, like the cold sea stopping the growth of Dutch cockles and a poor pea harvest, and the current bugbear, the frozen prawn glacier. If Stephen Walls was as good at running the company as he is at thinking of excuses for it, Albert Fisher would not be in such a mess.

DFS fails to lure windfall cash to its till

BY FRASER NELSON

THE rapid advance of DFS showed the first signs of strain yesterday as the furniture chain coupled disappointing year-end results with a warning that recent trading had suffered a short downturn.

Sir Graham Kirkham, the Tory fundraiser who built the company, said that like-for-like growth in its stores plunged from 10 per cent to 2 per cent last year after no benefit was felt from building society windfalls.

Although he argued that the figure is irrelevant beside the pre-tax profits of £38.7 million (£31.1 million), the shares dropped 30.4p to 570p.

Sir Graham said that the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, had led to an autumn slowdown in which weekly sales had plunged to £1 million at one point, against £1.5 million normally.

He said: "There has been a blip, an aberration, but these sales have just been deferred. Nobody else has been getting them. Anything we lost then we will recover later on."

Sir Graham played down the company's failure in

capitalising on spending by windfall recipients, which has lifted sales of most big-ticket items. "These people are savers by nature," he said. "It's not just DFS; the same has been felt across the whole furniture industry."

He dismissed suggestions that DFS could be losing out because it specialises in selling high-price goods at interest-free credit — an offer giving little advantage to those with windfalls to spend.

City analysts adjusted pre-tax profit forecasts from £47.5 million to £45 million for next year, when the number of DFS stores should rise from 40 to 45.

The company spent around £17 million on advertising and marketing over the year, to accompany its entry to the London area. This depressed margins by 1.3 points, to 14.6 per cent, although operating profit jumped to £37.2 million (£29.3 million) and earnings per share to 24.8p (19.7p).

The dividend rises to 12.7p (10p), delivering £3.86 million to Sir Graham and his family, who own 28.7 per cent of DFS.

Celltech to work on blood drug

BY PAUL DURMAN

CELLTECH, the drug development company, is planning to work on a drug to tackle the blocking of arteries in patients who have undergone angioplasty operations to free their blood vessels.

The company hopes to prevent the build-up of cells that can be caused by stents, the tiny metal supports used during angioplasties. The drug will be developed by combining Celltech's CDP 860 antibody with technology it expects to license from ZymoGenetics, an American research firm linked to Novo Nordisk, the world's largest producer of industrial enzymes. The shares climbed 10p, to 337.5p.

Celltech announced yesterday that it has an option to worldwide patents held by ZymoGenetics and the University of Washington.

Walls ready to change Fisher role

BY PAUL DURMAN

STEPHEN WALLS, chairman of Albert Fisher, is to give up his executive role once the food company has found a buyer for its seafood business. He will stay on as non-executive chairman. (See Commentary, this page).

Fisher hopes to sell the seafood business before the end of the year. It plans to return the money it raises — perhaps £100 million — to shareholders who have seen the value of their investment halve in the past four years.

Pre-tax profits (excluding one-offs) were £100,000 better at £40.2 million for the year to August 31, helped by a £3.3 million reduction in the interest bill. The seafood business increased operating profits from £7.7 million to £11.4 million.

A final dividend of 1.9p maintains the total at 3.75p.

Crystal team buys out travel groups

BY DOMINIC WALSH

PETER DYER, the veteran head of Crystal Holidays, the tour operator, yesterday unveiled a £150 million management buyout of Crystal and JetSave from Viad Corp, the US services company.

Mr Dyer, who founded Crystal in 1981 before selling it to Viad ten years later, is understood to have won in the face of strong interest from some of the biggest tour operators, including Airtours, Thomson, and Carlson. The combined group will be renamed Crystal International.



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARKE

Shares gain strength from spate of corporate moves

MERGER mania again gripped investors and injected fresh support into the equity market, which had shown signs of running out of steam.

There was a stream of early corporate news to keep fund managers occupied as share prices got off to a positive start despite the overnight setback for Wall Street.

And when prices in London started to falter, they were lifted by an opening rise for the Dow Jones industrial average on the back of a subdued set of US consumer prices.

The FTSE 100 index closed a shade below its best of the day with a rise of 24.2 at 5,287.9 in thin trading, with 817 million shares changing hands.

BT made up for lost time, leaping 24.1p to 471.1p on turnover of 46 million shares. Overnight news of GTE's \$28 billion (£17.2 billion) counteroffer for MCI came after the official close of business in London on Wednesday. Brokers are hoping that BT, which still has 20 per cent in MCI, will eventually link up with GTE.

A lukewarm response was given to confirmation of the plan by BAT Industries to merge its financial services arm, including Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star, with Zurich. The price touched 619p before reverting to close 4.1p lighter at 596.1p.

WH Smith rose 3.1p to 403.1p after the group rejected the revised terms from Tim Waterstone and put forward its own restructuring plans.

The £1.5 billion agreed bid from Federal-Mogul in the US lifted T&N 21.1p to 256p. The terms value T&N at 260p a share compared with the 235p a share that Federal Mogul had thought of offering.

BTCC was the best performer among the FTSE 250 with a jump of 21.1p to 208p in turnover of almost three million shares. This despite downgradings from ABN Amro Hoare Govett and Cazenove.

On Wednesday, talk suggested it was about to sell its Balfour Beatty construction arm, while some brokers have focused on the bid for troubled Redland. They say BICC may go the same way.

Newsquest, established a modest premium in first-time trading after a placing of shares at 250p. Shares in the regional newspaper publisher started life in "when issued" form at 235p, but later gave up



Sir Graham Kirkham and Jon Massey of DFS, down 30.1p

from the building society windfall bonuses. This revelation also hit MFI, down 6p at 134.1p.

Marks & Spencer remains a weak market, dropping a further 10.1p to 625p. In the past couple of weeks the price has fallen from a peak of 664.1p, with some brokers claiming the shares are fully valued. Kingfisher also came off the boil, losing 9p at 574.1p.

From fast-growing DFS, headed by Sir Graham Kirkham, chairman, and Jon Massey, executive director, failed to live up to expectations and the shares dropped 30.1p to 570p. The company confounded brokers by saying it had not seen much benefit

333.1p. Great Universal Stores held steady at 702.1p after a meeting with brokers on Wednesday. The company was giving little away.

Meanwhile, the Capital Group of Companies has emerged with a stake in Storehouse, 1.1p firmer at 237.1p, of 14.36 million shares, or 3.4 per cent.

Break for the Border, the themed restaurant operator, is thought to be on the verge of announcing its first disposal. The group, unchanged at 51.1p, is expected to unveil the sale of Lawson Beaumont, its outside events business, to Gardner Merchant, the UK's biggest contract caterer, for around £2 million.

Jarvis stood out with a leap of 3p to a new high of 318.1p after being given the go-ahead by the Government to acquire Fasline, the track renewal company, for £64 million.

Signs of institutional support lifted Deltron Electronics 11p to 153.1p. At least one fund manager has been snapping up stock.

The stamp of approval was good news for Care First, with the price adding 12p to 151p. It has been nominated by Norwich Union as a preferred provider of care home services.

Coffee Republic, just a day after completing its reverse takeover of Arion Properties, revealed a plan to run coffee bars concessions in French Connection's stores. The shares rose 6p to 26p.

Vega Group, hit by a profits warning last month, rallied 20p to 245p on news of an RAF contract worth £275 million over 20 years.

■ **GILT-EDGED:** Early gains proved short lived, with prices drifting back across the board after the higher than expected Government borrowing requirement number. The worst falls were once again seen at the longer end, stretching to more than £1.

In futures, the December series of the long gilt ended £1.32 lower at £119.12 in heavy turnover with 151,000 contracts completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished £1.12 off at £115.12, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 limited the fall to just a couple of ticks at £103.12.

■ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street turned lower, with program selling partly blamed. By mid-day the Dow Jones industrial average was 9.33 points lower at 3,048.65.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 10,908.0 (-0.30)
S&P Composite 937.32 (-1.00)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 17,707.49 (-376.12)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 13,675.25 (+153.02)

Amsterdam:
EOD Index 912.01 (+11.61)

Sydney:
ASX 383.0 (+0.12)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3,178.22 (-75.47)

Singapore:
SGX 1,803.45 (+50.79)

Brussels:
General 1,399.17 (+26.91)

Paris:
CAC-40 2,901.87 (-0.71)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1,634.00 (0.00)

London:
FT 30 3,043.13 (+1.13)
FTSE 100 1,690.9 (-0.23)
FTSE 250 4,963.4 (-0.20)
FTSE 350 2,594.6 (-1.21)

FTSE Euroshare 100 2,691.11 (+13.98)

FTSE All-share 1,027.28 (+1.90)

FTSE Small Int 1,322.75 (+0.09)

FTSE Govt Secs 100.13 (-0.10)

Bargains 4,633.33

SEAC Volume 817.800

US Bonds 1,024.00 (+0.01)

Corporate Bonds 2,049.01 (+0.05)

Exchange Index 94.84 (-0.13)

Bank of England official close (pence) 1,448.2

ECU 1,817

FTI 198.3 Sep (3.06) Jan 1987-100

FTX 157.8 Sep (2.79) Jan 1987-100

TEMPOS

It's good to negotiate

GTE has thrown a lifeline to Sir Peter Bonfield worth \$5.6 billion. In itself, it provides a graceful exit for British Telecom from a potentially hazardous adventure in financing MCI's attempt to create a local telephone network in the US. BT's apparent surprise at the dirty tricks used by the Baby Bells in defending their patch from MCI's incursion suggested some lack of research. It also showed curious unwillingness to draw on the UK experience where challenges to the BT monopoly have had distinctly mixed success.

BT could walk away with a bundle of cash to dangle at its shareholders. But BT investors are already getting special payments and the challenge in this industry is wise investment, not hoarding pennies. MCI-bids in the US may be a sign of a bull market peaking but these companies are also playing a strategic

game that Europeans cannot afford to ignore. GTE's bid is interesting because it has built up a big local network in suburban America with important stakes in cities such as Dallas, Los Angeles and Tampa. Not being part of the former Ma Bell monopoly, GTE is not subject to the restriction that is slowing the Baby Bell's incursion into the long-distance market dominated by MCI, Sprint and AT&T.

This cut strategy could offer BT a more painless way into a local US network than through bankrolling MCI's development. A tripartite alliance could feed local UK traffic directly to local subscribers in the US on lines in which BT had an interest. Overseas takeovers are an expensive way to secure control but in this hi-tech industry there are more subtle ways of securing market share. BT shares are looking more interesting.

T&N

NO fund manager will rush to accept a bid less than it deems better offers but T&N's leading shareholders are a bit fatter about Federal-Mogul's offer. T&N has been a robust investment over the past ten years and the company is recommending an offer that values T&N at about 14.5 times current year earnings, a 20 per cent discount to the market as a whole. The uplift simply restores some of the value lost to worries about asbestos and the disdain shown by some investors towards mists and bolts engineers.

This bid is about perceptions and if anyone doubts that American investors are taking a different view of T&N, they should take a look at the US market's reaction to Federal Mogul. The US motor parts group will be

saddled with \$3 billion in debt, no small challenge for a group with a market value of \$1.7 billion. At the same time they will take a massive \$367 million provision to rid their revenue account of future charges for asbestos. Yet Federal-Mogul's share price has risen from \$33 to \$45 on since the bid was first mooted.

Of course, there will be cash from disposals and savings from closing surplus operations. But in this bulk market, even allowing for asbestos, it is extraordinary that a key player in the worldwide automotive industry should be sold at less than an average rating. There is no hurry to accept this bid.

The unsung story of the recovery of local and regional newspaper industry is beginning to be told. Investors from no less than 11 countries bought a slice of a very local British business with American investors taking a 10 per cent stake in the company.

A further good indication is that more than 80 per cent of the staff bought shares – an additional sign of commitment to drive up future value.

BTR

IAN STRACHAN appears to be enjoying a new lease of life at BTR. Largely ineffectual during the first 12 months of his tenure as chief executive, Strachan has entered a period of hyperactivity that has ultimately succeeded in lifting BTR's shares after a prolonged period of decline.

To that extent, the Newsquest team which has a lot of free newspapers in its stable, has something to prove. The realistic pricing implies the possibility of above average growth and Jim Brown and his management know the business of local newspapers backwards.

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Last month Strachan put forward his vision of the company's future as a focused engineering company, diversified of interests in building products, packaging and polymers.

Disposals are just one half of the equation. The other half relates to the core engineering business, which has suffered from an acute lack of investment. With disposals raising about £3 billion, funds should become available to be ploughed back into engineering. The \$555 million purchase of Exide gives additional clout in a growing but competitive market, albeit at a steep price, and Exide's margins of 9.1 per cent require attention.

Many in the City have lost their shirts by seeking to call the turn in BTR shares, only to be bitterly disappointed by further underperformance.

But the appointment of the

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Many in the City have lost their shirts by seeking to call the turn in BTR shares, only to be bitterly disappointed by further underperformance.

But the appointment of the

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHAD

The unsung story of the recovery of local and regional newspaper industry is beginning to be told. Investors from no less than 11 countries bought a slice of a very local British business with American investors taking a 10 per cent stake in the company.

A further good indication is that more than 80 per cent of the staff bought shares – an additional sign of commitment to drive up future value.

BTR

IAN STRACHAN appears to be enjoying a new lease of life at BTR. Largely ineffectual during the first 12 months of his tenure as chief executive, Strachan has entered a period of hyperactivity that has ultimately succeeded in lifting BTR's shares after a prolonged period of decline.

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After a wobble, shares face a longish but not steep decline

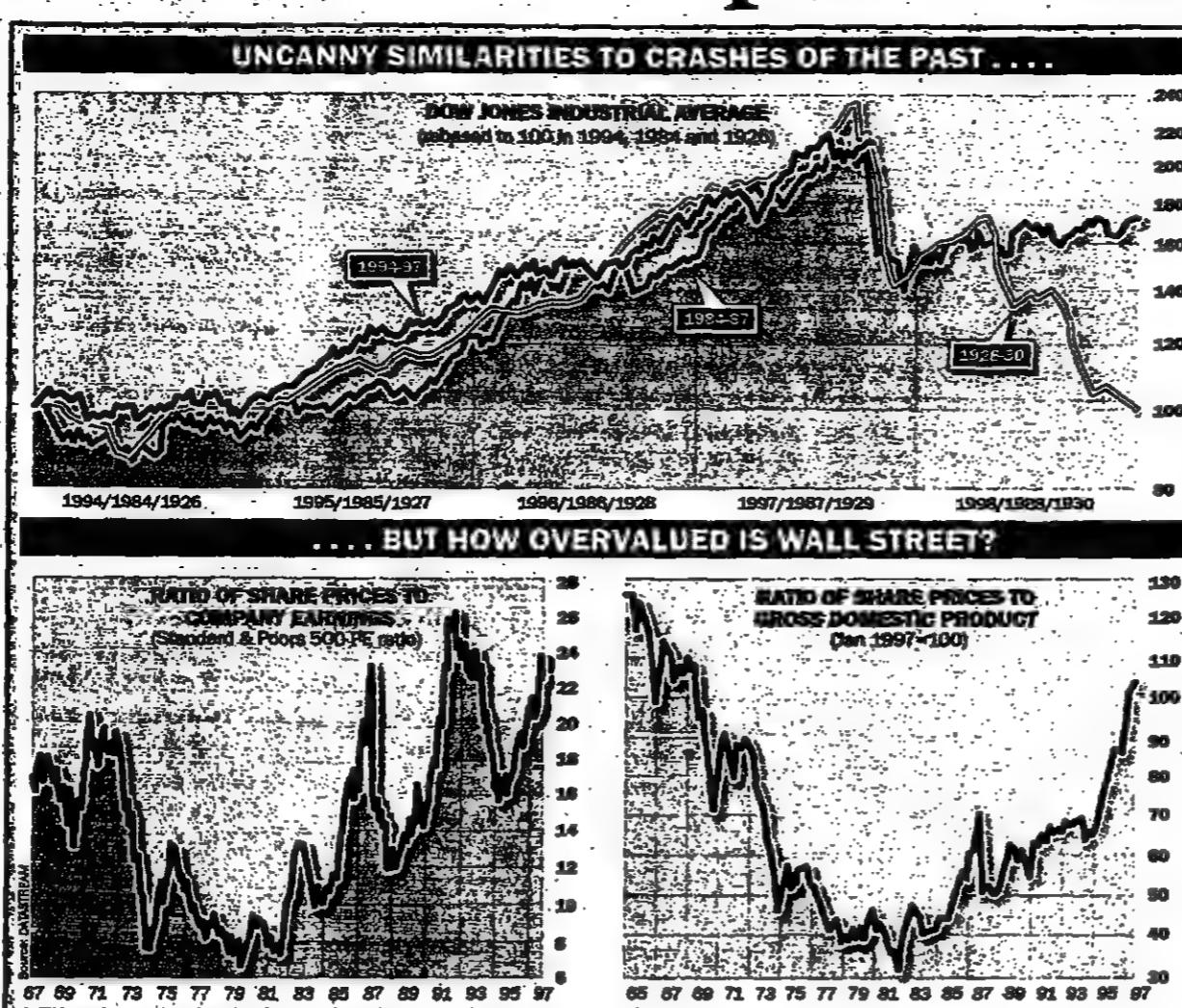
Widespread fears of another October crash are misplaced

All bull markets are alike, but every bear market is bearish in a different way — if Tolstoy had been a Wall Street broker those lines might have begun his great work. *A Knack for Barnum*. Since Sunday marks the tenth anniversary of Black Monday and the media are (as usual) full of jeremiads predicting another Wall Street crash, it seems appropriate to reflect on the wise words that he never wrote.

There are plenty of good reasons for believing that shares are now too expensive and that stock markets are riding for a fall. Some of these reasons were discussed in this column on July 18, when I abandoned the longstanding bullish view I had held about Wall Street since 1995. The reasons for turning bearish have multiplied. Personally bearish institutional investors in Britain and Europe are capitalising and pouring money into Wall Street. Bull-market euphoria is evident in the record-breaking bid for MCI financed by nothing but corporate paper. Investors are accepting ludicrous valuations for supposedly high-tech companies such as WorldCom, Yahoo and Dell Computer, which have few real assets and no proprietary technology or market power.

The reasons for turning bearish do not, however, include the alleged similarities between today's conditions and those of 1929, still less of 1929 or 1989 in Tokyo. The resemblance between the Wall Street bull markets of 1926-27, 1944-47 and 1994-97 is uncanny, as illustrated in the top chart. But just because both of the other bull markets culminated in a 30 per cent crash compressed into a few days in October, does not mean that something similar is likely in the coming weeks. If anything, the widespread fear of an October crash implies that prices could rise once the crash fails to materialise.

The question that matters, though, is not whether there will be a one-day crash like Black Monday or Black Tuesday in 1997, but whether the direction of the markets in the year ahead is likely to be down or up. And if a decline finally happens, will it be a 50 per cent-plus catastrophe (like 1929 and 1974 on Wall Street or Tokyo in 1990)? Will it be a less cataclysmic, but still traumatic, 30 per cent (like 1987)? Or will it be just a moderate correction of 20 per cent or so (like 1990)? My guess, for what it is worth, is that shares will wobble for a few months more, as they have since



conditions turned broadly bearish in mid-summer. They may even hit new peaks in a pre-Christmas rally. By next year, however, the markets are likely to beat a hageddon retreat, ending up some 20 to 25 per cent below their present levels.

The reasons why shares today are vulnerable are familiar enough. Prices are unusually high in relation to company profits, gross domestic product and most other fundamental measures of intrinsic worth. Although many professional analysts, especially in London, believed this to be true three years ago and thereby missed the entire bull market, the arguments that were wrong in 1995 are probably valid now. High valuations could be sustained, and indeed increased, while long-term interest rates kept falling and profits kept growing rapidly. But bond yields are now at rock-bottom levels and profits cannot grow forever at compound rates of 15 per cent, or even 10 per cent.

At some point, the share of profits in national income must stop rising and at that point share valuations that extrapolate 10 to 15 per cent profit growth to infinity are bound to fall. The longstanding bears were also wrong in 1995 to judge the market's valuations against benchmarks of the crisis-ridden 1970s and 1980s. Today, however, valuations are quite expensive even in relation to their levels in the 1960s.

Against this background, it now seems prudent to accept the bearish conventional wisdom that I had opposed in previous years. But where the

levels would probably be enough for the market to form a new base, ready for the next cyclical advance.

This issue of valuations makes the abruptness — and the brevity — of the 1987 crash easier to understand. By the mid-1980s, many investors thought they could discern the end of the post-1974 depression. They began to anticipate a return to the 1960s golden age of low inflation, full employment and rapid growth. But when the market got ahead of itself, as it invariably does, the first reaction was to question the "new paradigm" and to fear that crisis conditions and cheap valuations of 1974-82 were about to return. It did not take long for investors to realise, however, that there had been a fundamental improvement in the US and world economies. Fears about a return to the 1970s were misplaced. This was the reason markets began a sustained recovery within three months of Black Monday.

What the experience of 1987 proved in retrospect was that a market crash can only do permanent damage if it correctly anticipates a deep-seated structural dislocation. After 1929 came the great depression. After 1974 came 15 years of inflation and mass unemployment. After 1990 in Tokyo came the end of Japan's economic miracle, based on perfecting American technology and managerial methods. After the present market crises in southeast Asia, a disintegration of the "Confucian model" of authoritarian capitalism may be on the cards.

The next bear market in

America and Europe, by contrast, is likely to be triggered by cyclical rather than by structural problems — most probably a decline in profit growth, accompanied by a modest upturn in interest rates and inflation. But once such a cyclical decline does start, won't it inevitably turn to panic, as it did in 1987?

I think not. As share prices retreat in the face of unfavourable cyclical influences, long-term investors will be encouraged to snap up shares by the favourable fundamentals of expanding world trade, stable prices, co-operative labour relations and managed demand. In 1987, before the end of the Cold War and only a few years after the crises of 1973-83, a stable world economy seemed a pipedream.

Now America has actually experienced this "new paradigm" (more precisely, it has rediscovered and revised the old 1960s paradigm, as I argued on September 12). Accordingly, investors should be more confident about buying shares before they collapse to the undervalued levels of late 1987.

There could, of course, be a 1987-style crash if prices surged by another 15 or 20 per cent in coming months. But in the absence of such a final outbreak of bullish hysteria, there is unlikely to be a "crash of 1997" — or of 1998. More probable is a longish, but not very steep, decline. Instead of falling into a pit of panic, share prices would slide down a slope of hope.

Smugs views

TIM WATERSTONES stalking WH Smith has brought out an epidemic of self-doubt among the senior management — and not only about the so-called strategy of the retailer. Richard Handover, the "new" chief executive (after 32 years at Smugs), was concerned about how people view him. "I know what people say about me," Handover, who looks at least two decades older than his 51 years, told a City audience yesterday. "I know they say I'm a decrepit old fart from inside the com-

pany." Before anyone had a chance to nod, he added: "But I'm not."

However, he does not appear to have convinced Beverley Hudson, the managing director of WH Smith, and a relative new girl at Smugs. She referred to her new boss as "winkly" and went on to say of herself: "I know I don't have Mr Waterstone's charismatic whatever-it-is." Eloquence, perhaps? Style? Ideas? Ability to sell books?

AND they said, he would never finish the race. Gerry Acher, the head of auditing at KPMG, arrived in northern Italy yesterday on the last stage of the Peking to Paris rally, which he is tackling in a 1932 baby Aston Martin. He is due in Paris tomorrow, but is reporting strange noises coming from the engine. "We intend to make it to Paris even if we have to push the car," he emailed the office. That would be a sight.

Up in smoke
THE appearance of coddy Ken Clarke as deputy chairman of British Home Stores director — who went on to run Boddingtons, the cream of Manchester — has had a wonderful track record recently. Lib-



erty, the department store group that is his main company, has lost a third of its value in the past 16 months. He also runs Oliver Group, the shoe sellers — which has lost two thirds of its value in three years — and presided over the magnificent flotation of Kingsbury Group, the furniture flogger, seeing the shares fall from 32p to 19p this year before Lord Harris of Peckham's HSC put it out of its misery. Bad news for the Toon Army as well — he is a director of Newcastle United.

Hatchet man

I AM sad I missed Tuesday's Hill Samuel reunion, which the former merchant bank's former boss Christopher Castleman hosted at his office at Standard Chartered bank. A star-studded cast from the City included corporate financiers from BZW (clutching ominous brown envelopes), NatWest Markets (ditto) and Coss Brothers, as well as Richard Ramsay, now finance director of Aberdeen football club. The biggest surprise was the appearance of Christopher Roshier and Trevor Sweeny, the top financiers fired by Castleman over a row about taking staff to BZW. But I am not sure all hatchets have been buried. There was no sign of David Devel, who presided over Hill Samuel's sale to TSB ten years ago.

Beach call

TALKING of the TSB, Lloyds TSB is still flogging off its spare branches at a pace. Healey & Baker, the surveyors, auctioned 92 of them this week, raking in more than £24 million for the clearing bank's coffers. Healey is getting quite sophisticated in the way it handles the bidding these days, so you can bid by phone, rather than being at Sotheby's. One bidder picked up a couple of branches in the Midlands, while relaxing on a sun lounger on a beach in Tenerife.

JASON NISSE



The number you have called knows you're waiting ... please hold the line

City lets home-grown success story fall to the Americans

Carl Mortished reports on how the head of Federal-Mogul managed to put T&N, the automotive engineer, in the BHAG

On yet another day of multibillion-dollar bids, the City was given an inside glimpse into American corporate culture in the form of Dick Snell's "BHAG", or Big Hairy Ambitious Goal.

The genial chairman and CEO of Federal-Mogul turned up in London yesterday with a £1.5 billion bridging loan from Chase Manhattan bank, enough to snap up T&N, one of Britain's leading automotive engineers. Mr Snell's ambition is disarmingly simple: the big hairy goal is to create a \$10 billion company in five years. T&N is just a step

The City got it wrong and Dick Snell got it right.

The deterrent for investors has been asbestos, a liability the company never sought to evade. Doggedly, T&N's management soldiered on, running a tight ship that generated the cash to pay more than £50 million to asbestos sufferers, finally putting in place an insurance policy that caps the company's exposure.

Such conscientious determination won T&N few fans in the City, where investors treated the shares like poison, preferring the shorter-term thrills and spills in banking and pharmaceuticals. As a result, Sir Colin was left with little ammunition when T&N and Federal-Mogul flirted with a merger last year.

Robert Speed, analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite puts it bluntly: "It is a horrendous indictment of UK investor mentality. If they had merged the two companies, T&N would have taken 60 per cent of the group, but T&N stock was undervalued and Federal-Mogul was roaring ahead."

Sir Colin is clearly saddened by the outcome although he is firm in backing Mr Snell. "I don't deny that a lot of it was management's fault, but something is very wrong when institutions say to me 'Isn't it a shame you could not have carried on for two years'."

Pointing to Federal-Mogul's £1.5 billion bridging loan, he said: "It's ridiculous that they could produce the finance in America and we couldn't do it in London."

Yesterday, Mr Snell was full of praise for T&N's management, making jokes about Sir Colin's negotiating skills — "When I'm next to him I have to watch my wallet." Mr Snell knows he is getting a quality product at a bargain price, but whether the City recognises it is doubtful. It would be nice if hundreds of thousands of British pensioners wrote to those who invested our money to ask why they failed to back T&N. But they remain invisible and the depressing money-go-round continues.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Invoices can help timely payment

From Mr Lance Allen

Sir, The debate continues over late payment of invoices ("Large firms worst for delaying payments", October 3). Whilst habitual protagonists should be encouraged to mend their ways, a degree of self-help by the suppliers of the goods and services may help.

Vague and unspecific invoices will inevitably receive a delayed or overdue response.

By way of illustration: small printer sends invoice to large corporation, marked "goods supplied". Finance team logs invoice, forwards to stationery supervisor. He has no know-

Wrong penalties

From Mr Robert Breckman

Sir, The recent fines by the Personal Investment Authority, eg, the £450,000 on Friends Provident, are without substance. The payment of these amounts only comes out of policy and shareholders' funds.

Individuals who should be penalised and banned from being involved with the pensions industry and the companies involved should be likewise banned from selling pension policies for a period of, say, one year.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BRECKMAN,
49 South Molton Street, WI.

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Micropal directors accept American approach

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

The McGraw-Hill Companies, the American information services provider that owns Standard & Poor's, the equity and bond ratings agency, said yesterday that it was acquiring Micropal, the leading UK data provider on unit trusts.

It also announced that it would be launching a comprehensive Internet service for US and UK investors in the near future.

McGraw-Hill would not disclose how much it was paying for Micropal, which had a turnover of £13.5 million last year.

However, Micropal directors, including Chris Poll, the founder-chairman who owns nearly half of the company's shares, have agreed to the transaction.

McGraw-Hill said that the acquisition would build on its leading position in financial services and global publishing.

Micropal, which measures the performance of 38,000 investment funds in the UK, Europe and Asia, will become part of S&P, which is expanding its fund-rating business beyond the US.

Last February it bought Fund Research, another UK unit trust research company.

Jack Zwingli, group vice-president at S&P, said that the company had used Micropal data for five years and now planned to develop more products for American consumers, brokers and institutional investors.

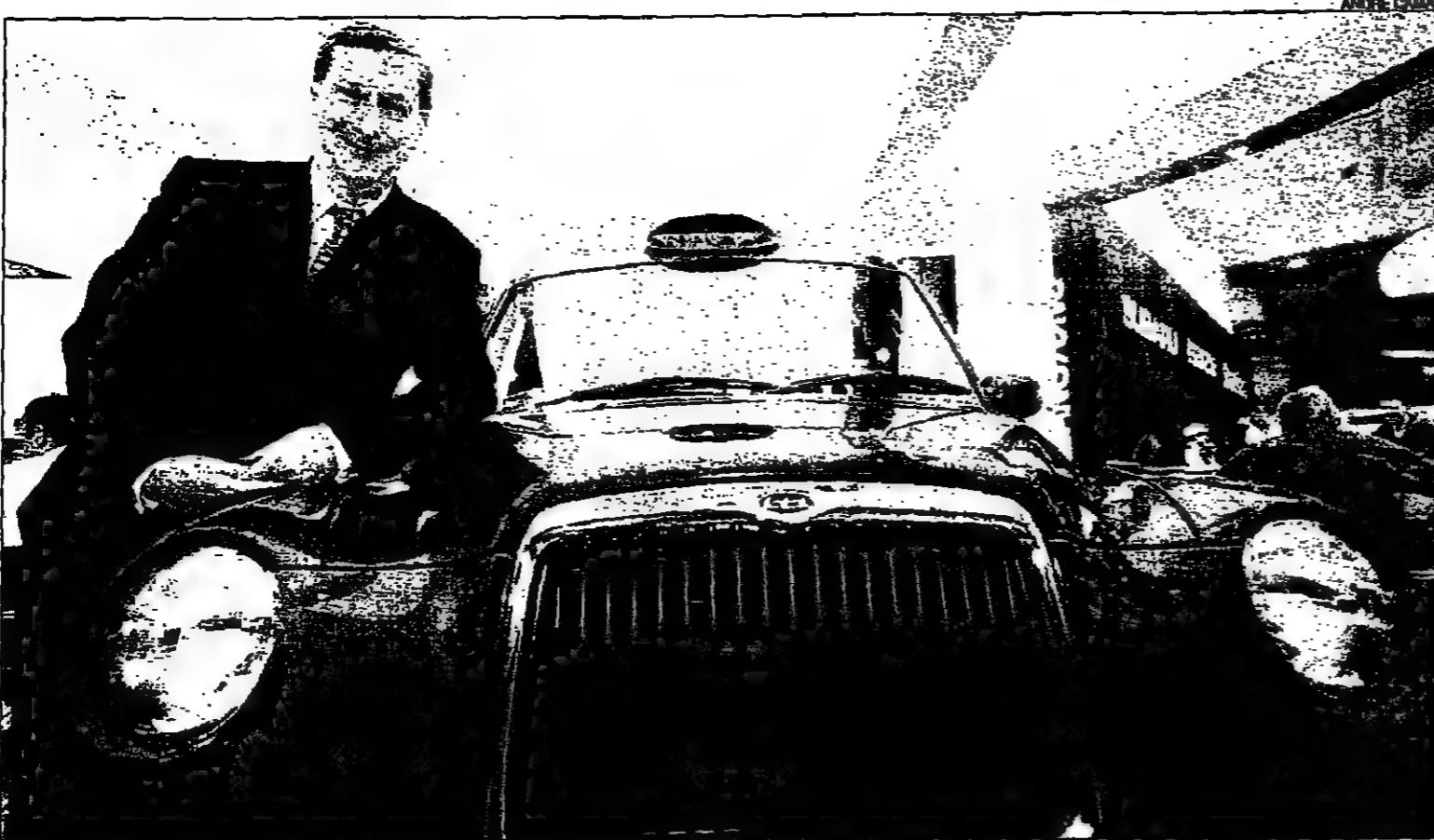
Next month it will launch Personal Wealth, an Internet-based service offering investors information and advice on finance and portfolio management in the US. Subscribers will be charged a monthly fee. S&P hopes to launch the service in the UK next year.

Mr Poll, who is leaving Micropal, said that the time was right to create a global service provider for the fund management industry.

He added: "The privatisation of pensions provision means you've got to get a global strategy. Over the coming years the fund management business will stop being the poor relation of the financial services industry and will become the essential conduit by which capital is moved."

Mr Poll is setting up a consultancy specialising in the Greater China region and will continue to advise the company, which will be renamed Standard & Poor's Micropal.

Mark Adorian will continue handling the day-to-day management and will report to Mr Zwingli.



Jamie Borwick, chief executive of Manganese Bronze Holdings, makers of London's black cabs, which are now destined for Paris and Frankfurt. The company dominates the UK market and is to

supply a left-hand-drive taxi. Mr Borwick said: "We could have exported them before but it was the devil's own job to convert the old models to left-hand drive. With the new version this will be much easier."

We should be exporting about a third of the production line in a few years." Pre-tax profits rose to £8.31 million (£6.2 million) in the year to July 31. The dividend rises to 9.5p (7p) with a final 6p.

BTR strengthens engineering core with Exide Electronics

By MARTIN BARROW

BTR, which embarked on a £3 billion disposal programme last month, yesterday moved to strengthen its core engineering business with the £361 million purchase of America's Exide Electronics.

Exide, a provider of power supply systems, will merge with BTR Control Systems to form a global business at the heart of the reshaped BTR, with annual sales of about £1.5 billion and almost 18,000 employees.

BTR is offering \$29 for each Exide share, which trade on America's Nasdaq exchange. This compares with a hostile \$20 offer launched by Danaher Corp, another American company, in July and which forced the Exide board to explore alternative strategic options for their business.

BTR has secured a recommendation from the Exide board and from investors who speak for 19.9 per cent of the shares.

The Danaher offer was due to expire at midnight yesterday.

Ian Strachan, chief executive of Exide Corporation, a manufacturer of batteries, earned pre-tax profits of \$50.9 million (£31.3 million) on sales of

£562.0 million in the 12 months to the end of June, achieving margins of 7.8 per cent.

"It gives our control systems group a global position in the power electronics industry and provides us with the ability to supply our customers with integrated systems solutions, for which there is increasing demand."

Exide, which is unrelated to Exide Corporation, a manufacturer of batteries, earned

pre-tax profits of \$50.9 million (£31.3 million) on sales of

£233 million of debt. BTR shares were little changed at 23p yesterday, down 1p.

The shares, which had severely underperformed the stock market over the past three years, have recovered some lost ground since August, coinciding with the appointment of Bob Bauman as chairman and the subsequent announcement by Mr Strachan of a strategic refocusing of the group. BTR is assuming

buyers for its huge packaging, polymers and building products business.

Drug firms count the cost of EMU

By PAUL DURMAN

EUROPEAN Monetary Union will cost pharmaceutical companies hundreds of millions of pounds in lost profits because it will hasten the cross-border harmonisation of drug prices, it is claimed.

David Brewer, a senior consultant at the life sciences arm of Cap Gemini, the computer services consultancy, said that the introduction of a single currency would make price differences more visible to government agencies and consumer groups.

At the same time, he said, a single currency would further encourage wholesalers to exploit price differentials through parallel importing.

Mr Brewer said that the absence of currency risk will allow wholesalers to take advantage of smaller price discrepancies. Cap Gemini believes that together these

Microsoft chasing \$1bn cable television stake

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT, the US software group, is considering a \$1 billion (£600 million) investment in one of America's largest cable television companies, Bill Gates, the Microsoft executive chairman, is seeking control of the cable sector after deciding that cable, and not telephony, holds the key to the delivery of electronic communications.

Microsoft executives are negotiating a deal with Telecommunications Inc (TCI) under which Microsoft would provide cash for the installation of the boxes that would give cable subscribers easy access to the Internet and digital cable channels.

Viewers will for the first time be able to use cable television interactively as a result of the new technology. Gates communications key

that the group already dominates the personal computer market. In an extreme case, rival cable software could become a threat to Microsoft's Windows operating system, the group believes.

Microsoft executives have said that "penetrating the living room" will be vital for the long-term future. The unconfirmed investment plans at TCI are worth between \$500 million and \$1 billion, funded from cash resources.

Ultraframe £136m float

ULTRAFRAME, the designer and manufacturer of conservatory roofs, said it is planning a stock market flotation via a placing of shares at 147p a share, valuing the group at £136.4 million, a multiple of 15.8 times estimated earnings before exceptional costs per share for the year to September 26. Estimated earnings per share for the year are 9.3p, with the nominal dividend at 3.5p a share. Estimated pre-tax profit for the period will be "not less" than £11.03 million. Dealing in Ultraframe shares is expected to begin on October 23.

IAWS payout rises 10%

IAWS GROUP, the Irish food and agricultural products group, achieved an increase in pre-tax profits to £125.3 million (£82 million) from £118.5 million in the year to July 31. Earnings rose to 13.7p a share from 11.8p. There is a final dividend of 11.68p a share, lifting the total by 10 per cent to 13.2p. The company said capital expenditure and acquisitions totalled £134 million during the year. Free cash flow remained strong at £121 million and year-end borrowings were £122 million, with gearing of 30 per cent.

TCI is among several cable companies that formed a consortium to standardise cable boxes so that they can be used by cable providers nationwide. But TCI's existing technology is believed to be inferior to that of its direct competitors. Microsoft is also trying to persuade Time Warner, America's second-biggest cable operator, to endorse its software.

Eventually, consumers are expected to route all their communications, including telephone conversations, through the cable network.

Mr Gates' efforts are aimed at making Microsoft software the standard on the cable network in the same way

Golden parachute of \$55m for Araskog

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

RAND ARASKOG, chairman of ITT Corp, the leisure group, will receive a golden parachute worth \$55 million (£33 million) if he loses in the \$11.5 billion takeover battle with Hilton Hotels.

Mr Araskog, who has been chairman for 18 years, is fighting to keep ITT independent. Hilton is offering \$70 per share. If the group is sold for more

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See page 12 for details

The Lord Mayor's scheme rewards the firms who employ their business know-how to improve inner-city life. John Young reports

Breathing fire into community projects

It is easy to dismiss schemes such as the Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards as mere public relations exercises, when you contrast the glittering towers and palaces of the City of London with the squalor and poverty that still afflict large parts of our inner cities.

In one sense that is what they are, but in the best sense. Corporate involvement in community initiatives to help disadvantaged members of society is not going to make any converts among critics of late 20th-century capitalism. By donating money and a few hours of its employees' time to a "worthy cause", Mammon pic will not persuade the public that it has a heart as well as a purse of gold.

But experience has shown that a helping hand from the rich and influential can achieve highly rewarding results at grassroots level. Every successful example of corporate involvement, however insignificant its cost in finance or man-hours, symbolises a breaking down of barriers: often the greatest benefits are to company employees who gain experience and satisfaction from new interest and commitment. New friendships are cemented and new alliances forged between the most unlikely seeming partners.

Twenty-nine entries were shortlisted for this year's tenth anniversary awards, sponsored by the Corporation of London in association with Carlton, and organised by Business in the Community. The judges were the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Sir Roger Cork; Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England; Colin Stanbridge, Director of Carlton Broadcasting; Lord Sheppard of Didsbury, former chairman of Grand Metropolitan; Martin Lewis, the BBC newsreader; and Debbie Scott, trust director of Tomorrow's People Trust.

The winners in each of the seven categories announced at the Lord Mayor's Banquet at Mansion House last night are:

• City firm: Lloyds of London. Immediately adjoining the City of London and increasingly linked to

it by the eastward expansion of commerce into the former docklands, the borough of Tower Hamlets nonetheless has one of the highest levels of social deprivation and one of the worst academic achievement records in the country. The paradox is partly explained by a heavy concentration of recent immigrants: 60 per cent of pupils regard English as their second language and more than half lack fluency in it.

The Lloyd's Community Programme was established in 1989 to focus on education, training and the encouragement of enterprise in Spitalfields, and was extended to include the whole borough. It provides core funding for the Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership, with which it has established a highly successful reading project in which large numbers of City workers take part.

In 1995 an appeal in the Lloyd's staff newspaper for volunteers to help pupils with reading produced an overwhelming response. Projects have been established in seven schools. Children's achievements are rewarded by excursions to places such as the Tower of London and Arsenal Football Club.

• Community Regeneration: The NatWest Group. During the past five years the group has committed more than £50 million in

cash and kind to community ventures. These include the NatWest Group Charitable Trust, which since 1995 has awarded some £4 million to community groups across the country to help them to find their own solutions to unemployment and social exclusion.

The trust works with 30 main partners in a project entitled Young People and the Changing World of Work. The aim is to encourage young people to take advantage of new employment opportunities and to gain the skills, confidence and experience they need to lead independent lives. Successful examples include the provision of loans and support for disadvantaged black youths in Bristol to set up their own businesses; training people with learning difficulties to undertake voluntary social work at



On his way to the top: a bricklaying trainee taking part in the Peckham Partnership gets advice on building skills on a John Laing site

a community centre in north London, and encouraging disaffected youngsters on housing estates in Wales to become involved in community projects.

Grants average £50,000 a year for three years, with additional awards at regional level. Several hundred company volunteers assist with advice and in assessing and monitoring projects. Seminars are held regularly to enable those taking part to share their experiences.

• Employee Community Involvement: BT Personal Communications Division. Working with Business in the Community, BT has established what it describes as "the largest company-to-community mentoring scheme in the United Kingdom". More than merely advising, "mentoring" aims to encourage young people to recognise and define their interests and to use them to pursue educational and eventually career ambitions.

More than 200 BT employees took part in the scheme, entitled Roots and Wings, in the 1996-97 school year. In the current year the number has increased to 325 and the number of secondary schools taking part from eight to 13. Schools are selected on the basis of having higher than average social needs.

An independent assessment by the North West Consortium for the Study of Effectiveness in Urban Schools found that Roots and Wings has made a significant impact on pupils' self-confidence, attitude to school work, skills, aspirations and awareness of the world outside school.

• London Partnership Award: John Laing plc and Grand Metropolitan. The National Tenants Resource Centre, which was

opened in Chester in December 1995 by the Prince of Wales, is the first residential centre in Britain to provide training, resources and communications for social housing associations and tenants' organisations. Professionally organised courses are aimed at instilling tenants with the expertise and confidence needed to manage and negotiate more effectively.

The

centre is located in Trafford Hall, an 18th-century listed building which was purchased by

Grand Metropolitan Estates and made available, rent-free, for ten years, after which it should become self-financing. The building needed extensive repairs and refurbishment, for which John Laing provided help in cash and in kind, and also carried out the construction of extra accommodation units.

More than 5,500 tenants and

community representatives have

already attended courses at the

centre. Small and newly estab-

lished associations receive finan-

cial help to meet the costs of attendance from a scholarship fund estab-

lished by the two companies.

• Education and Training: Bankers Trust Company. In each of the past three years the company has given a total of £75,000 to a charity, the Morpeth Educational Trust, formed in partnership with Morpeth School in Tower Hamlets.

The partnership is reported to

have played a significant part in

raising standards of education,

behaviour and motivation among

pupils in one of the poorest areas of

the capital. Within two years the

overall GCSE pass rate has risen

from 69 to 85 per cent; the rate for

grades A, B and C has risen from 11

to 26 per cent.

Attendance is up from 82 to 90

per cent, and young people with

previously low expectations of achievement have come to appreciate the importance of further education and the opportunities it affords. Sponsored new activities include a school orchestra, a study weekend for final-year English and maths students, science field trips and a recent week in America for 20 students to meet their contemporaries at an American school.

• Special Business Award: Warwick Wright Motors. In 1992 the company was asked to consider providing work experience for young people from schools in Lambeth, southeast London, and agreed to accept students to work in its parts, service and administration departments. A number of other smaller garages have also joined the scheme.

Many of those making special schools. For students with social and behavioural problems, ordinary work experience has in the past often been considered impractical, but involvement with cars can frequently help to stimulate new interests and talents.

Although some businesses with limited time and resources have had to limit their participation, Warwick Wright has maintained a year-round commitment. Service managers are available to discuss career opportunities, emphasising the key discipline of learning to work together as a team.

• Special Certificate for the best entry nominated by a community organisation: The Peckham Partnership. Including John Laing plc, Countryside Properties plc, CATOR Pioneers Tenants Association and Southwark Council, the partnership is dedicated to maximising the numbers of local people receiving training in the building trade and securing work on site. An average of 30 per cent of the workforce comprises people who live in the neighbourhood.

Regeneration of a number of huge housing estates has temporarily displaced large numbers of residents and emphasised the need for greater community involvement in upgrading living standards. A programme of work experience placements for Southwark Direct's Modern Apprentices is an initiative to take young people of both sexes off the unemployment register and recruit them for careers in carpentry, painting and bricklaying.



Bankers Trust is proud to be a winner of the 1997 Dragon Award, and would like to express its thanks and congratulations to the Teachers and Pupils of Morpeth School and Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership, together with Bankers Trust employees, for their hard work, innovation, and commitment - key ingredients for a winning partnership.

Bankers Trust
Architects of Value

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BT would like to congratulate their Roots & Wings Mentors on winning the Employee Community Involvement Award.

Remember Dr Peter's principle of office life? It's the one that says people get promoted when they reach the level at which they are incompetent. Of course (he quickly added with a nervous giggle) that isn't true of our office, but it certainly explains a lot about other people's.

Well, a similar law governs cultural life. People who shine in one field develop uncontrollable urges to prove themselves utterly mediocre in another. Distinguished writers pine to host chat shows. Gorgeous TV weather-girls yearn to break into serious acting, darling. Stockbrokers attempt to conduct Mahler. Supermodels write novels... or so their dust-jackets proclaim.

Then there is Sir Paul McCartney. This week our greatest pop songwriter revealed his own manic ambition: to be Beethoven. His *Standing Stone*, a 75-minute symphony composed with the aid of just two computers and five human assistants, was premiered in the Albert Hall — and promptly garlanded with the most

scorpio reviews since Peter O'Toole played Macbeth.

Of course, McCartney can afford to take a lofty view of the critics' decision. His last excursion into classical music, the *Liverpool Oratorio* — a work whose chief entertainment value lay in the unusual spectacle of Dame Kiri Te Kanawa singing the role of a Liverpudlian housewife — was similarly ridiculed back in 1991. It has since notched up more than 100 performances. And *Standing Stone* already lops the classical CD charts — not that you need to shift many discs to achieve that.

Nevertheless, the question remains: what compels a genius to attempt something for which neither temperament nor training has equipped him? Cynics would reply that "crossover" is a gimmick invented by slick-suited accountants in greedy record companies. Not so. The inspired tunesmiths proclaim.

There is Sir Paul McCartney. This week our greatest pop songwriter revealed his own manic ambition: to be Beethoven. His *Standing Stone*, a 75-minute symphony composed with the aid of just two computers and five human assistants, was premiered in the Albert Hall — and promptly garlanded with the most

Weathering the storms

RADIO

heard After The Storm (Radio 4) a few days earlier:

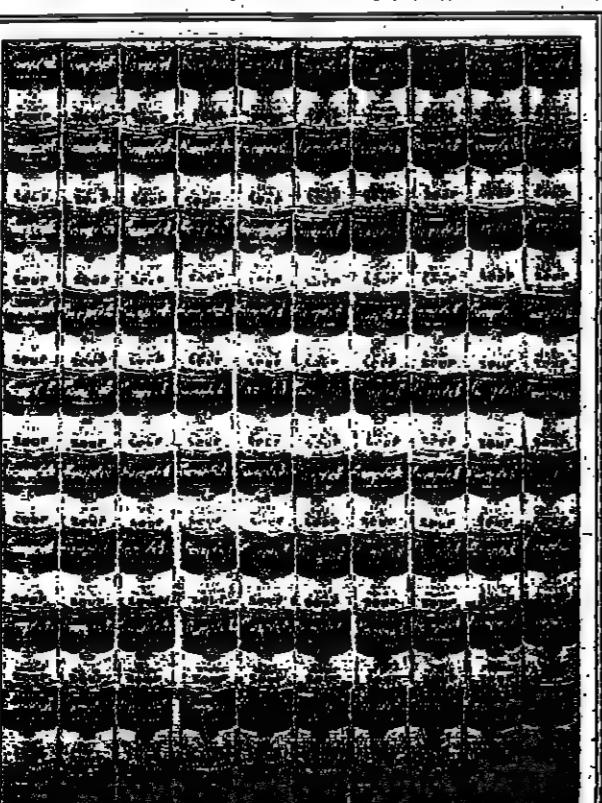
That was a good programme, too. Both had a raft of interesting anecdotes, both dealt with the serious side of the storms, the deaths and devastation, as well as giving an account of the storm British.

But two programmes on two BBC radio networks commemorating the same event? Is this what Tony Hall, the chief executive of BBC News, was getting at when he announced recently that five years, sorry, executive editors would take over from individual programme editors to avoid duplication of resources? And was Hall wrong to back down so hastily?

Yes and no. It is in part what he meant but he was right to back off. The reason is that BBC Radio is a very strange creature, for it not only has five heads — the networks — but it also has five hearts, livers and pairs of lungs. The notion that BBC Radio is an entity is quite wrong. You could put a programme about the Great Storm on all five networks on the same night, and hardly anyone would notice. The loyalty of listeners to individual networks is quite remarkable. There are several million people who would rather be dead than lose Radio 4, yet they could not find Radio 5 Live on the dial to save their lives.

They care about the other networks, they wish them to continue, but only as a way of proving that their network is infinitely superior. The Great Storm over Hall's centralisation plans was fanned, by listeners as much as by BBC journalists.

PETER BARNARD



TEN OBJECTS OF DESIRE

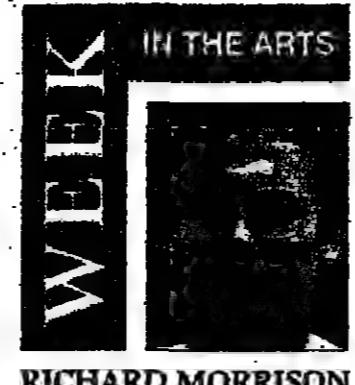
Richard Cork's daily guide to the Hayward Gallery's new still lifes

■ ANDY WARHOL: 100 Cans, 1962

WHEN Warhol started exhibiting his Pop work in the early 1960s, most viewers found it shocking. Why was he choosing subjects as ordinary as Campbell's Beef Noodle Soup, stacked in rows like a supermarket display? How could such a mass-produced theme deserve to be painted on a large canvas, without any attempt to transform the banality of tinned food? Warhol remained cool despite the hostility, and *100 Cans* now deserves to be ranked among the most memorable images of its period. American society was changing, irreversibly. Warhol's pictures of endlessly repeatable, identical products, half-celebratory and half-mocking, defined the new consumerist mood with wit and flair.

Objects of Desire is at the Hayward (071-960 4242), sponsored by BMW in association with The Times

As he said, money can't buy him love



RICHARD MORRISON

who desperately wants to be "taken seriously" has been a phenomenon for centuries. Arthur Sullivan, for instance, hated the fact that his fame and fortune derived solely from his collaborations with W.S. Gilbert. He kept writing the comic operas to pay his prodigious gambling bills, but always believed that his best works were his dreary oratorios.

And George Gershwin was constantly striving to "rise" from Tin Pan Alley to Carnegie Hall. I love the story of him meeting the French composer Maurice Ravel and humbly asking for lessons: "How much do you earn?" asked the astonished Ravel. Gershwin revealed the astronomical figure: he had four Broadway shows running simultaneously at the time. Ravel bowed to Gershwin with elaborate irony. "It is who should be taking lessons from you," he said.

when McCartney's *Liverpool Oratorio* was premiered in that city's Anglican Cathedral. Before the performance started, the Rt Rev David Sheppard surveyed his unlikely congregation of preening celebs and godless music-biz execs, raised his eyes upwards to the soaring roof of Giles Gilbert Scott's massive nave, and announced with an eloquent sigh: "It is a real honour to welcome Paul McCartney to our little cathedral."

The reaction to McCartney's classical excursions from

orchestral musicians, however, is probably closer to incredulity than resentment. Why, they wonder, should such a stupendously wealthy man want to enter our impoverished, unglamorous, permanently beleaguered world?

Whar's the answer? Well,

remember George Bernard Shaw's quip when the Hollywood mogul

nations. They shake up (if only briefly) our over-compartmentalised culture. And, every 20 years or so, a masterpiece is born. After all, Gershwin did write *Porgy and Bess* in the 1930s. The classically trained Bernstein did compose *West Side Story* in the 1950s. In the 1970s the Broadway superstar Stephen Sondheim did veer amazingly into dark *verismo* opera with *Sweeney Todd*. And only this year Wynton Marsalis proved that a modern jazzman can blast thrillingly into "classical" territory (and win a Pulitzer Prize) with his moving oratorio, *Blood on the Fields*.

McCartney's *Standing Stone* isn't in that league, but who would blame him if he gives the traditional double-fingered salute to the British press, which has been full of sarcastic suggestions this week about him investing in some music lessons before attempting another orchestral epic? How many millions did McCartney earn last year? As Ravel would doubtless have commented, it is we who should be taking lessons from him.

Wicked stepmother with gloss

DONALD COOPER

Six months after the Royal Shakespeare folk slammed out of London, the Barbican is back in theatrical business; but not yet with *Henry V*, *Hamlet* and the rest of last summer's Stratford fare. First, we have a modern Japanese play directed by Yukio Ninagawa, whose *Midsummer Night's Dream* last year was as thrillingly inventive as anything the RSC has staged in the last decade. Those

THEATRE

hoping for another such banquet will be only slightly disappointed.

The author, Shuji Terayama, died in 1983, leaving behind a reputation for mixing the realistic and modern with the fantastic and sometimes mythic. That skill is much in evidence here, as is an obsession apparently characteristic of his work. Terayama never saw his mother when he was a child — she was working as a housemaid far away — but was brought up by an aunt. Hence, presumably, the weird, painful muddle of emotions that exudes from the recently orphaned title-character when his father makes a second marriage.

The story will not be hard for anyone to follow, especially if he reads the synopsis in the programme and then hears it doggedly repeated before curtain-up by a glib-sounding Alan Rickman. Tatsuya Fujiwara's vulnerable, willowy Shintoku-Maru hates Kayoko Shiraishi's Nadeshiko, whom his bereaved father has acquired as a sort of wife-boutique. Eventually, his bitterness defeats her kindness; he strikes her and she resorts to black magic in

revenge. So to a curiously erotic finale in which a blindfolded Shintoku-Maru goes off entwined with his stepmother, presumably to bed.

I leave it to the shrinks to disentangle the psychopathology of this. What I can report is that the production never relaxes its grip, thanks partly

to the intensity of the principal actors, partly to Ninagawa's direction. I cannot quite explain why the evening opens with showers of sparks as men with drills grind away at the iron bridge straddling the stage. But after that the imaginative sparks keep flying.

There are strange, surreal

scenes in which dwarfs mingle with bikers, ballerinas and men with furniture strapped to their backs, while a booth swathed with theatrical masks trundles past. There is a visit to the underworld, a place in which, far from finding his dead mother, Shintoku-Maru is beset by mad, screeching

women searching for their dead children among carts covered with flickering candles. And then there is Nadeshiko's graveyard voodoo, a scene terrifying for the force of its anger.

Add music that seems to

range from Asia to Weill, Satie and other Western influences, and you have an evening that won't just appeal to the London-based Japanese. Rather, it is as if some gorgeously exotic gloss on *Oedipus* and *Phaedra* had come bubbling out of dreamland.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

A boy needs his mother: Kayoko Shiraishi as Nadeshiko and Tatsuya Fujiwara as her stepson, Shintoku-Maru, in Shuji Terayama's surreal play

LONDON CONCERTS: A talented British composer unveils her new concerto; and period instruments shine anew

Brilliant tales from the river

SALLY BEAMISH has no publisher, and is represented on CD by just one short piece. Yet the 41-year-old former violinist has a substantial body of works to her name, works which musicians have inspired, begged her for, and love to play. A Second Symphony, to be premiered next March, and a Proms commission for the millennium season signal her standing on the British concert stage. And this new cello concerto, *River*, premiered by Robert Cohen, reveals a further expansion of her imaginative vision and a refining of her technique.

The work was dedicated to its commissioner, Robert Cohen, and is perfectly suited to his sensitive virtuosity and fluid elegance. Neville Marriner and the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields responded with enthusiasm, and a Proms commission signal her standing on the British concert stage. And this new cello concerto, *River*, premiered by Robert Cohen, reveals a further expansion of her imaginative vision and a refining of her technique.

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The instrumentation was, on the whole, bright and uncluttered, with lyrical trumpet solos and the brilliantly written cello part in clear

space. Only in *Low Water* did the sound thicken, and the mood turn mournful, with divided cellos playing aural harmonies, providing an "ocean of balm" out of which the soloist weaves an impassioned soliloquy which owes much to Shostakovich.

The final movement is "coming and going" music, as in the poem, with intricate interweaving of string soloists with timpani, and a second violin duet with Cohen to create a delightfully distanced effect.

Printing the poetry didn't necessarily set the work off to its best advantage. Verse of such dense imagery and complex verbal music of its own is overwhelmingly suggestive. Where was the "toppling tangle of glooms", the truly watery shadows, how many in the audience could imagine the fingling ostinato of night music in "sewing body and soul together" which, for Beamish, was a jumpy, disjointed allegro?

At the same time, her colour

painting could be magical: the soft bass and cello pizzicato of the "river throb", the shimmer of chimes with iridescent wind as the kingfisher erupts through a mirror. Cohen's slightly "tipsy" gisando. Perhaps the question now is not when a publisher will sign up Beamish, but whether she needs one at all.

The overture-concerto-symphony programme was traditionally in format, but the interpretations of two familiar works (Beethoven's Violin Concerto and Schubert's Ninth Symphony) and one less so (Mendelssohn's *Trumper Overture*) brought out their originality and freshness. Mackerras's strength is to set and maintain a tempo with a beat that is taut and full of rhythmic propulsion but never rigid. Thus in the Schubert that Viennese lilt kept breaking out in a seemingly spontaneous way, while in the Beethoven there was no mean-

It's thrilling to play by the rules

ONE/MACKERRAS OEH

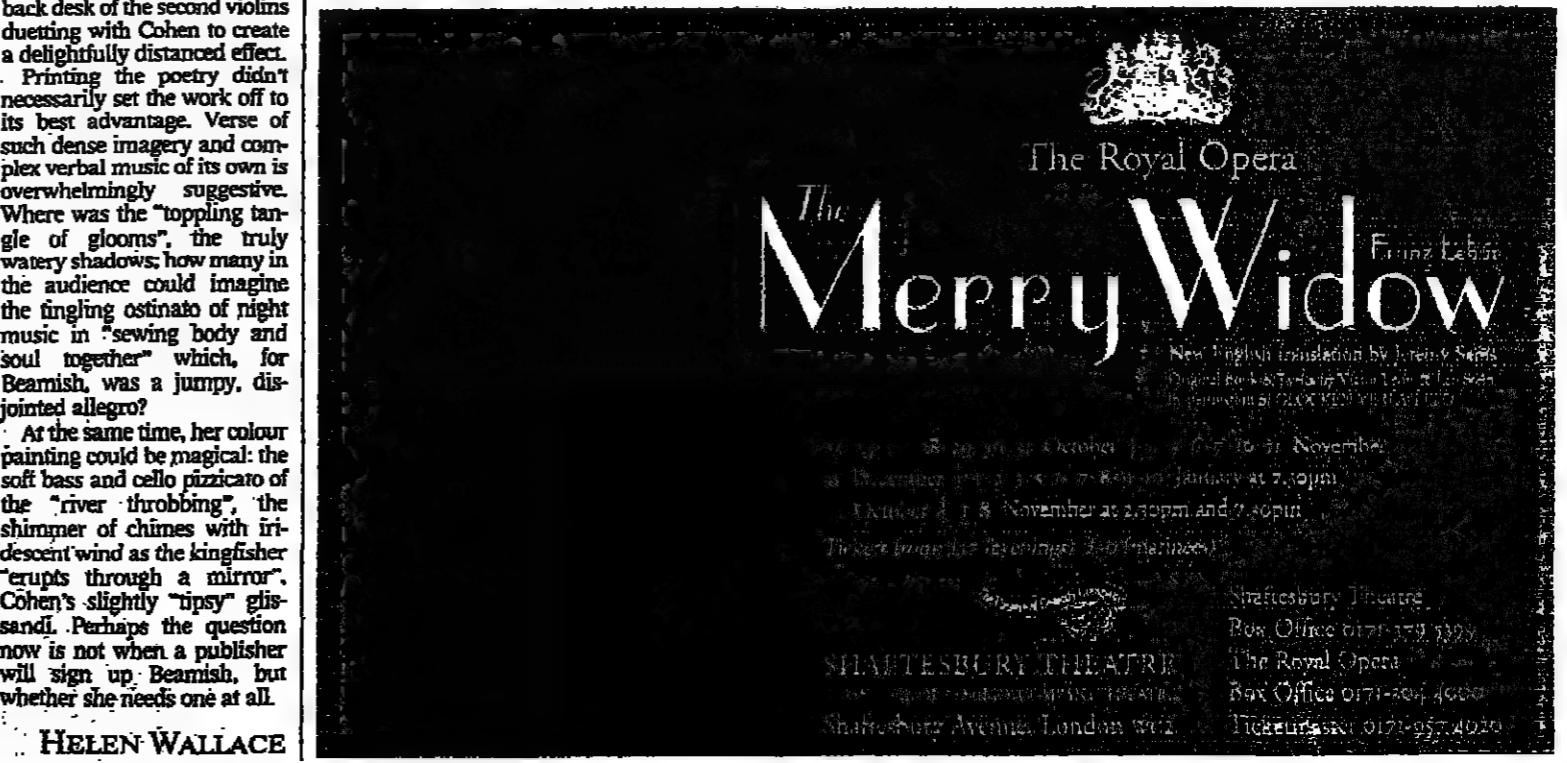
dering along the way to savour the beauty spots: all was energy and momentum.

This is not to imply any lack of expressiveness (though there was scope for more dynamic shading). By not indulging those often unthinkingly pullings-around of the tempo common to most modern symphony orchestra accounts, even a work as well

known as the Violin Concerto came up as fresh as a daisy. In this, Mackerras was helped by the soloist, Thomas Zehetmair, who gave a gripping and often daring account of the work. His superb technical control allowed for a true *pianissimo* in the slow movement and dazzling fireworks in the Paganini-like transcriptions of the cadenzas Beethoven wrote for the original version of the concerto — for piano.

All in all, it was a thrilling evening's music-making, with the orchestra maintaining the energy level and commitment right to the final cadence of the marathon that is Schubert's Ninth: another OAE concert to remember.

TESS KNIGHTON



HELEN WALLACE

File under girding of loins

Jimmy Nail is taking it easy this year – he's only tackling enough work to buckle two ordinary men. Paul Sexton reports

Jimmy Nail knows that his reputation precedes him. He greets me at a London hotel with a cheery "Right, Paul, you're the next one to be eaten alive." But whatever the demons of a turbulent northeastern upbringing that helped to create the image of the tre-braulding, multimedia megalomaniac, Nail seems to have them under his thumb.

The singer-songwriter/actor/producer/one-man media centre has enjoyed, for him, a low-key year. No new television roles or movie projects, just an arena tour, a new best-of album and a couple of screenplays. It's the closest a workaholic such as him is likely to come to taking a year off.

"It's been a period of reflection and assessment," he says. "The intention was to have a relatively calm, 12-months. But you get addicted to being on the box and in people's living rooms; it's quite difficult to step away from that. On the other hand, I found it liberating, in a scary kind of way. You're not sure what's coming next, but that's not too bad."

In the dozen years after his small-screen emergence in *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*, Nail's frenzied schedules produced the drama series *Spender*, two series of that tangled tale of a country crooner, *Crocodile Shoes*, a cinematic debut in *Evita*, and a hugely successful singing career. But when, late in 1995, his work schedule nearly blew a fuse, Nail knew it was time for a rethink.

"I finished *Evita* on the Thursday evening and began the second *Crocodile Shoes* series on the Friday morning," he recalls. "That was madness. For the first two or three weeks, I was calling everyone the wrong names. When I think about the way I used to work, I must have been insane – 16-hour days, six, seven days a week."

When I visited him at his North London home in the summer, Nail was resting, very fit. "It doesn't come easy," he said then, "especially to a working-class lad who carries the whole guilt-ridden work ethic scenario, where unless you're out there digging a trench you feel like you're not doing something. But there are times when leisure time is actually more productive than being on the clock and trying to create."

• I feel I'd got stale; I didn't have anything special to give. •

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John Howson, below, on a new strategy to attract graduates and Kevin Berry, right, on the status of teachers

Recruiting plan goes big screen

Star-studded commercials promoting teaching as a career will appear on cinema screens for the first time today. The advertisements, which feature Tony Blair and other leading figures, are the key element of the Teacher Training Agency's new recruitment strategy, which also features an award-winning exhibition stand with an Internet site as a central feature.

In the present competitive employment market for graduates, the TTA is only catching up with techniques used by other employers. The Ministry of Defence, for example, has used TV commercials to try to recruit service personnel.

There may have been a growth in graduate numbers, but teaching still needs about 20,000 new graduates if there are to be enough teachers to staff the schools. This makes the profession the largest single recruiter of graduates.

There are some success stories to report. In the recruitment round for courses that started this autumn, applications from graduates wanting to train as primary school teachers exceeded all previous records, with over 13,000 people, mostly women, applying for the 4,000 or so places available.

However, it is a different story when it comes to attracting would-be teachers to work in secondary schools. In many subjects, the number of applicants has been falling in each of the past four years. Many universities will have started the new term with vacancies on their maths and science PGCE courses despite the Government's decision last autumn to cut back on the number of places available.

In the field of design and technology, where industrial experience is often regarded as helpful for trainee teachers, the position is of even greater concern. When student numbers have started to fall, it is possible that little more than half the places on offer will have been filled. If there is a spike

of last-minute dropouts the final figure may be even worse.

Even in English, traditionally thought of as an easy-to-recruit subject, the figures are disturbing.

Mainstream PGCE courses attract

only about 150 applicants for each 100 places and half the courses in England and Wales still had vacancies at the end of August.

Recruitment problems place the training institutions in a dilemma. Clearly they don't want to recruit potentially poor teachers, but they do need enough students to make a course viable. In the past they have probably erred on the side of optimism and recruited students who needed considerable support to turn into adequate teachers. A point confirmed, at least as far as languages students are concerned, by Ofsted in its evidence to the Teachers' Review Body.

With the drive towards quality in education started by the previous Government and continued by this one, admissions tutors may, in the future, decide to offer places only to those who will clearly meet the quality requirements.

In the short term, such a move would be likely to depress the numbers being trained as secondary teachers still further. In the longer term, it would help to raise the standard of the profession.

However, for standards really to be raised, the Government needs to consider the link between economic reality and public sector pay. Put simply, the more people invest in their own education, the more they will expect a return on their investment at some point in the future.

As individuals are expected to pay for parts of their education, their attitudes are sharpened. Normally, that return is expressed in monetary terms by means of a higher salary, but that need not be the case. For women entering primary school teaching, it could be the chance to spend quality time



Tony Blair meets Eric Anderson, his former English teacher, whom he praises in the new commercial

with their children, either now or at some time in the future. There are also the intrinsic benefits of working with young children. Both of these reasons may go some way to explain the continued buoyant recruitment to primary school teaching.

Secondary school teaching does not seem to have the same appeal. Adolescence is not an easy stage of many people's lives and working with this group *en masse* every day, seems to be less popular as a career option. The Government seemingly has a choice in its support for the TTA's attempt to attract better quality entrants to secondary teaching as a career — it can pay more, or it can offer some other form of return to individuals to repay their investment.

The cheapest option is to "talk up" teaching. The profession offers an intellectually challenging career

with a developing career structure. More defined career paths and better induction procedures, now being developed by the TTA, will follow the introduction of training for senior staff through various schemes. There is also the promise of a General Teaching Council.

On the financial front the zero

rating of fees from PGCE courses from 1998 is good news but will take time to filter through to potential applicants. Salary levels in teaching are still competitive in many areas of the country but in London, when compared with figures released by the Association of Graduate Recruiters earlier this summer, both starting amounts and possible earnings after five years are beginning to fall behind many other employment opportunities.

There comes a point where teaching does not seem to provide

individuals with sufficient return on the investment they have made in their education. A knowledge-based society needs able graduates to staff its schools. Without such staff, it will also be more difficult to raise standards. Any shortage of teachers will be felt first and worst in the very schools that need the best teachers — those with the most challenging pupils. I started my teaching career in London during the recruitment crisis of the early 1970s. At that time many children were being taught by teachers without qualifications in the subjects they were teaching and teacher turnover was rapid. There is now a danger that they are reappearing in London in the late 1990s.

• The author, an education analyst, is currently in a personal capacity. Until recently he was the Teacher Training Agency's chief professional adviser on teacher supply.

They all want to be teacher's pet

In my part of Yorkshire a story is often told when neighbours first meet each other. Windle was leaning over the hedge chatting to a neighbour who happened to be an accountant. Confused by a tax item, he asked the accountant for advice. The accountant gave it and then they changed the conversation to football or something equally mundane.

Three days later, Windle received through the post an itemised bill — for the accountant's time and advice.

That is an extreme example of someone tapping into a neighbour's skill and expertise to solve a problem. Windle, poor chap, was a teacher and he had no expertise with which to barter, nor expertise on which the accountant or any other neighbours would place any value.

I remember thinking at the time that people never seemed to seek a teacher's advice. It was simply because everyone was an education expert: they had all been to two or three schools and they had been educated. In 20 years

I cannot recall one instance of a neighbour asking my advice about the education system or a problem with a son or daughter. They knew best. If help was needed with an after-dinner speech or a complicated letter, they would ask me — not because I taught English but because I wrote stories and articles for a rural magazine. That skill allowed me to tap into the neighbourhood expertise grapevine.

I often despised that teachers were not seen in the same light, and I mean class teachers and not

just elite office class. I had overwhelming admiration for Mrs Brooke, a wonderful reception teacher, who lived close by. She was remarkably unflappable, patient and capable of turning any screaming brat into a happy, eager, curious and calm child. When my own children came, I would always ask her about suitable books and games and play groups, but I was the only neighbour who ever did.

Now things have changed, and the national curriculum is responsible. It might be irksome and irritating, but it has given teachers perceived expertise. Parents obviously have not experienced it and they haven't the time to read and understand all the after-

file of material. The expertise comes with a whole package of puzzling abbreviations and gloriously vague vocabulary. Don't understand it? Ask a teacher.

In the months before I left teaching, the national curriculum was sweeping in like a mill fire and the head teacher of my school arranged an evening to explain the NC and other bewildering new things to parents. The hall was packed as never before, and the parents demanded more.

When I now see Mrs Brooke at neighbourhood gatherings, she is being asked questions about education: her expertise is being tapped into and that expertise has raised her status.

Windle is much happier. The accountant has asked his advice about exam revision books and even made an appointment with Windle. Will be send the accountant a bill? He's not saying.

The standards that all trainees must reach to gain Qualified Teacher Status include:

- Knowledge and understanding: know pupils' common mistakes, degree-level expertise of specialist subject (secondary), A-level knowledge for primary
- Planning, teaching and class management: identify clear objectives and content for every lesson, set targets for each pupil, establish a purposeful working atmosphere, maintain a good standard of discipline through well-focused marking and positive relationships
- Monitoring and assessment: use testing to monitor strengths and weaknesses, present information reports to parents
- Other professional requirements: Set a good example to pupils through presentation and personal and professional conduct

10p

THE TIMES

READERS OF A NERVOUS DISPOSITION SHOULD IGNORE MONDAY'S 10P TIMES.

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You've nothing to lose except your nerve.



Fax buddies: Mandy Tobin and Donna Reading, of the Heathlands School in Hertfordshire, who are both profoundly deaf

Message of hope from the fax

Pupils on school trips to France often fight shy of speaking to the natives, but become wildly enthusiastic once their first muddled words are understood. Teachers are gratified to see children who have yawned their way through lessons suddenly start working out sentences and looking up words.

A three-month experiment using fax machines to enable deaf children — whose first language is British Sign Language — to talk English to adult volunteers has produced similar results. From a stumbling start, children whose first faxes consisted of only two sentences suddenly started turning out two pages of A4.

Nine-year-olds Mandy Tobin and Donna Reading, of the Heathlands School in St Albans, Hertfordshire, are both profoundly deaf and come from deaf families. Most of their friends are deaf. As the trial went on, they became confident enough to write to ask for an explanation when a promised picture did not turn up.

Their teacher, Sara Head, said: "It was highly motivating for them to get a fax back the same day. Knowing that someone at the other end would read their letter, the children wanted to develop written English skills. It was also useful for them to learn to use the technology. The fax machine is one of the ways in which deaf people will increasingly communicate with one another and with the outside world. One boy started to use his parent's fax machine at home to send messages to his uncle. Fortunately, our

adult volunteers have promised to continue with the scheme, if not, we would have to find new volunteers from local firms."

The eight schools that took part in the trial want to continue the scheme. About 1,000 faxes were exchanged by the 82 children, aged between seven and 16, and their adult "fax buddies" — volunteers from the National Association of Head Teachers, the BBC, the National Council for Educational Technology and BT. Teachers reported improvements in writing, grammar, spelling, handwriting, fluency, confidence and in readiness to try to communicate.

BT supplied the fax machines and produced a guide for the volunteers, explaining the need to keep sentences simple. Volunteers had to exercise some ingenuity in making their messages easy to understand: some initially used difficult vocabulary and complicated sentences. For example, the sentence "I sent the message on to him" baffled Mandy, who faxed back "Why you sent to me I read your fax said message on to him. I said I am not boy am girl." This misunderstanding gave the teacher an opportunity to discuss the grammatical problem.

The best fax buddies incorporated

sketches in their letters and asked simple questions to keep the conversation going. All the schools found that the length of the faxes children wrote increased during the life of the project. Teachers noticed growing independence in the pupils' approach to writing.

The scheme proved liberating for Charlotte Harrop, a teenager from Ashton-on-Mersey School in Cheshire, who started to use the fax to arrange shopping and social trips with a deaf friend.

Matthew James from the Deaf Trust, who helped to evaluate the scheme, said: "With the fax, children are able to read messages in their own time and consider their responses. The pressure to reply to questions on the spot can be very discouraging. That is why the fax is such a useful starting point for young deaf children."

Other educational benefits were clearer handwriting, development of a greater range of language use, increased vocabulary and a new enthusiasm for English. One girl's pleasure in receiving faxes shone through in her anxious message: "You can't send me fax on 25 May to June 1 if go to Paris. You will send me fax on June 2, OK?"

JENNY KNIGHT

A guide to setting up schemes with hearing-impaired children similar to those with speech and language difficulties is available from BT on 0171-356 8076 fax 0171-400 5384.

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

REDDITCH BASED - ATTRACTIVE SALARY, CAR & OTHER BENEFITS

The Law Society is the governing body that represents and regulates solicitors in England and Wales. It carries out a broad spectrum of activities ranging from law reform and practice advice to professional education and public relations. Reporting to the Secretary-General, you will lead the Society's strategy on Legal Education & Training of Solicitors. You will be the ambassador for the Society with the senior players in this field. Your success will be judged by the extent to which the Society is regarded as the leading voice in the provision of Legal Education and Training. You will be an effective leader of staff at all levels in your own team and make a major contribution to our corporate management.

THE JOB

- To lead and manage the development of policy, rules and principles for the Legal Education and Training of Solicitors.
- To establish the Law Society as the leading influence in the field of Legal Education and Training for lawyers.
- To lead the work with the profession, the Government and other organisations involved in the provision of Legal Education and Training.
- To manage a team of staff providing a policy and administrative service.
- As a member of the Law Society Management Team to participate in the corporate management of the Society.

Please send your full C.V., giving your present job title and salary, with a covering letter demonstrating how you meet our needs to: Tricia Jones, Human Resources, The Law Society, P.O. Box 203, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5ZD. For informal enquiries, please ring Jane Bates, Secretary-General on 0171 242 1222.



- SERVING LAW AND JUSTICE -

THE LAW SOCIETY

- SERVING LAW AND JUSTICE -

Fachhochschule
DortmundProfessur für Betriebswirtschaftslehre,
insbesondere Controlling und
betriebliche Datenverarbeitung (C 2)

Fachbereich Wirtschaft
Gesucht wird ein Betriebswirt/eine Betriebswirtin aus dem Controlling mit fundierten Kenntnissen in betrieblicher Datenverarbeitung, insbesondere Konzeption und Einsatz von integrierter Standardsoftware (im Fachbereich wird u.a. SAP/R 3 in der Ausbildung eingesetzt) und Datenbanken (u.a. Oracle und Informix). Von Vorteil ist eine nachgewiesene Projektserfahrung als betriebswirtschaftlicher Anwender oder Berater, die detailliertes Produkt-Knowhow einschließlich Softwareanpassung (Customizing) umfasst.

Regelstellungsgrundvoraussetzungen

Einschlägiges Hochschulstudium, pädagogische Eignung, Prädikatspromotion, 5 Jahre berufspraktische Tätigkeit nach Hochschulabschluß (davon mind. 3 Jahre außerhalb des Hochschulbereichs). Die Bewerbung geeigneter Schwerbehinderter ist erwünscht. Die Fachhochschule Dortmund strebt nachdrücklich die Einstellung von Frauen an.

Bewerbung

Bewerbungen mit den üblichen Unterlagen sind unter Angabe der Kennziffer T42/97 bis spätestens 4 Wochen nach Erscheinen dieser Anzeige an den Rektor der Fachhochschule Dortmund, Postfach 10 50 16, D-44047 Dortmund (Deutschland), zu senden.

POSTS

Founded in 1839 by the Church of England, University College Chester offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses leading to the award of degrees of the University of Liverpool. Upon the retirement of the present incumbent on 31st March 1998, applications are invited for the post of

Principal

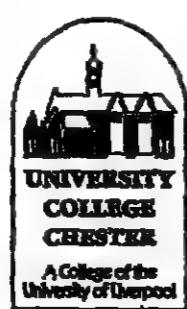
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The role of Principal is to provide the spiritual and intellectual leadership and the strategic direction to develop the corporate functions of the College. Already with a reputation of achievement in university management, the successful candidate will bring evidence of entrepreneurial flair; an inspiring team leader of academics, management and students s/he will possess the skills to liaise with the Governing Body in focusing on and achieving targeted objectives.

Applicants must be communicant members of the Church of England or of a church in communion with it.

Further particulars and application form are obtainable from the Clerk to the Governors, University College Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester, CH1 4BJ. Tel: 01244 375444 Fax: 01244 373759.

E-mail: d.stevens@chester.ac.uk
Applications should be returned by:
Monday 17th November 1997.



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POSTS

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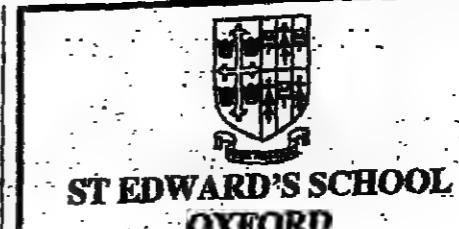
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Leadership in research and teaching is required of those appointed to senior positions. It is desirable that candidates have both business and academic experience. An additional advantage would be expertise in developing the use of IT for teaching.

For application form (fee £10), and further particulars (available on request in alternative formats for applicants with a disability) please contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, McCance Building, Richmond Street, Glasgow, G1 1XL. Tel: 0141-533 4132 (24 hour Voicemail Service). Applications Closing Date: 10th November 1997.

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St Edward's School is an independent HMC co-educational boarding school with 560 pupils aged 13 to 18.

Applications are invited for the Bursar's appointment which becomes vacant in August 1998 on the retirement of David Bremble after 11 years of distinguished service in the post.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate an ability in financial and business management and should have held positions of responsibility at senior level.

Applications enclosing curriculum vitae and names and addresses of three referees should be sent to: The Secretary to the Governing Body (BUR/1), St Edward's School, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 7NN, no later than 25 October 1997.

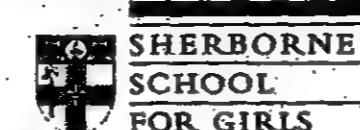
ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL, BRAMLEY

BURSAR

The Governors of this high profile girls' independent boarding school are seeking applicants for the post of Bursar in the Summer of 1998 upon the retirement of Dick Hume after 11 years' service in the post. Applicants should be in the approximate age group 40-55 with a proven record of management skills, finance and organisational abilities.

For details write to:

Brigadier R T P Hume
Bursar
St Catherine's School
Bramley
Guildford
Surrey GU5 0DP
Tel: 01483 892562 Fax: 01483 894608

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A TIMES NEWSPAPERS PRIZE DRAW

THE TIMES

FOUR FABULOUS
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This week The Times has teamed up with The Sunday Times and Churchill Insurance to offer readers the chance to win one of four exciting cars worth around £20,000 each.

The Lotus Elise is one of the most exciting cars of recent years, technically innovative with fabulous styling and incredible handling. The Freelander is for those who want the style of an off-roader but the practicality and easy driving of a saloon. The VR6 is the raciest Volkswagen Golf of them all, sexy in black with black leather interior; and the Espace is for serious weekend drivers, diesel-powered for maximum fuel savings on long journeys with flexible loading space.

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THE TIMES
CHURCHILL
INSURANCE
PRIZE DRAW
TOKEN 11

CHANGING TIMES

RACING: SOFT GROUND THREATENS FRENCH CHALLENGE FOR DEWHURST STAKES

Dark clouds gather over Xaar
By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket tomorrow is in danger of losing its billing as the best two-year-old race of the season because of doubts about the participation of Xaar — officially the top-rated juvenile in Europe.

The ground at Newmarket yesterday was officially good to soft, and, unless it dries sufficiently in the next 24 hours so that the "soft" element of the going disappears, the Zafonic colt will almost certainly be pulled out.

The uncertainty prompted the Tote to suspend betting on the group one race and will have contributed to a sleepless night for Peter Player, chairman of Newmarket, as his racecourse prepares for its first Champions' Day. "It would be desperately disappointing if Xaar doesn't run because it looks to be the best Dewhurst for years."

Nevertheless, one can understand the caution being exercised by André Fabre and Khaled Abdulla, the trainer and owner of the Prix de la Salamandre winner. They remember only too well how Zafonic, the winner of the Dewhurst Stakes in 1992 before a memorable success in the 2,000 Guineas, failed on his only run on soft ground — and his most celebrated son is showing the same dislike of soft ground.

One is entitled to make a mistake once, but we must not make the same mistake with his son," Grant Pritchard-Gordon, racing manager to Khaled Abdulla, said yesterday.

André Fabre specifically worked the horse on softer



The Puzzler, nearside, prevails in a driving finish to the Olivier Douieb Memorial Handicap at Newmarket yesterday

ground on Monday and said afterwards he was not the same horse. We are anxious to run but we don't want to make the same mistake we did with Zafonic and run on anything like soft ground."

Although the times of yesterday's races suggested the ground was slow, Newmarket, had deliberately saved a 30-yard wide strip of ground on the stands' side for tomorrow and Nick Lees, clerk of the course, believes that will offer a faster surface.

While Newmarket needs a

change in the going, backers are desperate for a change in fortune. The starting prices of the winners of the first six races yesterday were 20-1 (20-1 on the Tote), 20-1, 20-1, 16-1, and 33-1 (23-1). In the finale, Zugodi, the 100-1 outsider, threatened for a brief moment to continue the trend — but he could not peg back Santillana, a 6-1 chance yesterday, to his first race for 537 days.

The most significant race of the afternoon involved the EBF Chesterion Maiden Stakes in which Albararin, trained by Ian Balding, had a

reputed to be Godolphin's Derby horse for next year, attracted plenty of support and was sent off the 7-4 favourite. A good looking Silver Hawk colt, he was hollering in the parade ring but showed no signs of inexperience on the racecourse.

Frankie Dettori had to tack over from a poor draw and looked set to win when taking up the running entering the Dip only for Border Arrow to swoop inside the final furlong and win going away by three lengths. Trained by Ian Balding

and owned jointly by Bob Michaelson and Wafic Said, the Selkirk colt attracted a quote of 33-1 for the Derby, but Balding is run from certain he will stay 1½ miles.

That will not stop Michaelson dreaming of what may be during the long winter months. "He had been working nicely on the gallops with Ian's best and everyone supposedly had their best shots here," he said. "We had hoped he would run nicely into sixth or seventh — so this is a pleasant surprise."

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235: Despite having to shoul-

der a 7lb penalty for his

group three victory at

Goodwood, Fabris looks the

safest option. Ben Hanbury's

colt had Amid Altadha and

Green Card behind that day

and, on his latest start, failed

to stay 1½ miles at Ascot. He

won over course and distance

in the spring and invariably

runs his race. Green Card

should be suited by returning

until last month, Ben

Hanbury's sprinter put up a

fine performance on his

second start here 15 days ago

and will go close.

However, the form shown

is the form choice judged on all

her runs this term and she is

ideally drawn next door to

Tipsy Creek.

345: Legend Of Love has a

reasonable handicap mark

after running three times

over an inadequate six furl-

ongs and looks sure to

improve now that he steps up

to a mile for the first time.

Jeremy Clover, trainer of the

Pursuit Of Love colt, has an

excellent record at this track.

However, the best form on

show is possessed by The

Glow-Worm, who finished a

good fourth behind Lend A

Hand at Doncaster five

weeks ago. Barry Hill's

Doyoun colt did not look

totally at ease on the fast

ground that day and will be

suited by this surface, having

won on easy going at the July

course here. In an open race,

Ben Rimmer's Generosity and

Noble Demand can also be

given a sound chance.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ROYAL CASTLE
(L-30 Newmarket)

Next best: LUCAYAN INDIAN
(205 Newmarket)

RICHARD EVANS

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

SIS

DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 RICHMONDSHIRE NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O; 2000m) (17 runners)

THUNDERER

2.10 MARCH'S MACHINE, 2.45 SWAN HUNTER, 3.20 HIT
THE SPOT, 3.25 WHITE EMIR, 4.25 TAUNTON BOY, 4.55

TERRITORY, 5.25 ALLISON'S MATE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.20 Odette.

2.10 0040 INBALANCE 20 (D) C W Hail 8-7

D Peers 8-7

R Peart 8-7

4 (9) 1020 PRINCESS NATHALIA 13 (B) M W Estuary 8-7

T Lucas 7-6

4 (9) 1042 PRINCESS ASHLEY 4 (F) P Hester 8-7

C Lockett 8-7

7 (1) 1110 SUGEST 20 (F) D Jolley 8-7

J Ferrier 7-6

8 (1) 1004 LUCIANA 20 (P) E Peart 8-7

J Ferrier 7-6

9 (1) 1005 ROYAL INTERVIEW 20 (B) C Hester 8-7

A Ferrier 7-6

10 (1) 1116 MISS SALINA 20 (B) D Peers 8-7

P Lynch 7-6

11 (1) 1007 MISS SUNDAY 20 (B) C Hester 8-7

R Ferrier 7-6

12 (1) 1008 BARRELBOY 20 (B) C Hester 8-7

R Ferrier 7-6

13 (1) 1009 PEGASUS 20 (B) C Hester 8-7

R Ferrier 7-6

14 (1) 1010 MARCH'S MACHINE 20 (B) C Hester 8-7

R Ferrier 7-6

15 (1) 1011 PEGASUS 20 (B) C Hester 8-7

R Ferrier 7-6

16 (1) 1012 PEGASUS 20 (B) C Hester 8-7

R Ferrier 7-6

17 (1) 1013 PEGASUS 20 (B) C Hester 8-7

David Powell on the Briton about to defend her Chicago Marathon title

Sutton taking the Windy City by storm

Winning the Chicago Marathon can lead to many things. For Marian Sutton, the benefits did not stop with her arrival home last year, when she found the local mayor waiting in her front room with a bouquet, or with tickets to attend a gala athletics night at the Park Lane Hotel, or with a lucrative deal to appear in the London Marathon.

Chicago adores its marathon champions and, not wanting to wait a year before seeing Sutton again, sent her an invitation to return in June to help to promote the marathon and compete in the Hard Rock Café five-kilometres road race. Oh, and would she like to throw the first pitch for the White Sox in their baseball match against the Minnesota Twins?

Paul Evans, Sutton's fellow Briton, who had won the men's Chicago Marathon title, was also asked to pitch, but declined. Nor Sutton, daunted though the prospect was. When the part-time solicitor's secretary from the Cornish fishing village of West Looe lined up to defend her title here on Sunday, she will not be as nervous as she was when she walked out to the pitcher's mound before 25,000 spectators at Comiskey Park.

However, everything Sutton does in Chicago seems to go right. Not only did she win her road race but, according to Chris Hartweg, the Chicago Marathon media director, she did such a "wonderful job" pitching that she received an ovation. "She reared back, threw it and made it 60 feet to the home plate on the fly [without bouncing]," Hartweg said.

The distance on which Sutton's sights are fixed this weekend is somewhat longer: 26 miles 385 yards. If she is optimistic about winning, it is because her form has been even better than it was before the Chicago Marathon last year. People have begun to wonder if she ready to displace Liz McColgan as Britain's No 1 woman distance runner. Few think she is, but the challenge is in place. Five weeks ago, Sutton finished



Pounding the beach: lack of adequate facilities in West Looe means that Sutton has to use the Cornish coastline for training purposes

clear not only of McColgan but also of Derartu Tulu, the world cross-country champion, in the Great North Run half-marathon, setting a personal-best time of 69min 41sec. Then, two weeks ago, in the Great South Run ten-mile race, Sutton pressed McColgan into a lifetime best of her own. McColgan won in 52:00, Sutton improving by almost 40 seconds to 52:15. Both times, she finished second.

In between duels with McColgan, Sutton won a ten-kilometre race in another personal best 32:38. There is no McColgan for Sutton to race against here, the Scot opting for the Tokyo Marathon on November 30, but the field includes six athletes who have achieved something she never has, a sub-2hr 30min marathon. That does not include the latest racing Kevyn, Lornah Kiplagat. Aged 23, Kiplagat trains with Joyce Chepchumba. McColgan's

conqueror in a thrilling London finish last April.

It all went horribly wrong

for Sutton in the London

Marathon because she was

"so obsessed" with breaking

2hr 30min. She finished twentieth in 2:35:45. "I got it totally

wrong in the way I was

thinking," Sutton said.

prize-money and bonuses and that, together with her increased market value, might have persuaded her to give up work. Living in West Looe is hardly ideal for an international runner and, as it being remote from training partners is not disadvantage enough, limited street lighting forces

she is wavering. "I am undecided about working because the concentration of training has made a difference," she said. "In the winters, I struggle because of the lack of facilities. I am going to have to restructure it somehow."

Having Mondays off has enabled Sutton to recover from long journeys back home after Sunday races. "I used to miss Monday morning training a lot because of the travelling," she said. "I was too tired to get up and go before work."

Aged 34, Sutton is an imposing 6ft. Although some have

suggested that her height is a disadvantage for a marathon runner — Joan Benoit-Samuelson, the former Olympic champion, among them — Sutton has never let that worry her. This woman from a tiny Cornish village will form a big presence in the Windy City on Sunday. Nobody here is betting against her blowing the opposition away.

Her victory was worth

\$43,000 (about £27,000), in

her to run repetitive loops on winter nights.

The option to give up work

and train by day has not been

taken, though she has cut back

from a five-day to a four-day

week. She fears the boredom

of "sitting at home waiting to

go for another run". However,

block training spells of two

months at a time in New Zealand

and the United States have proved so beneficial that



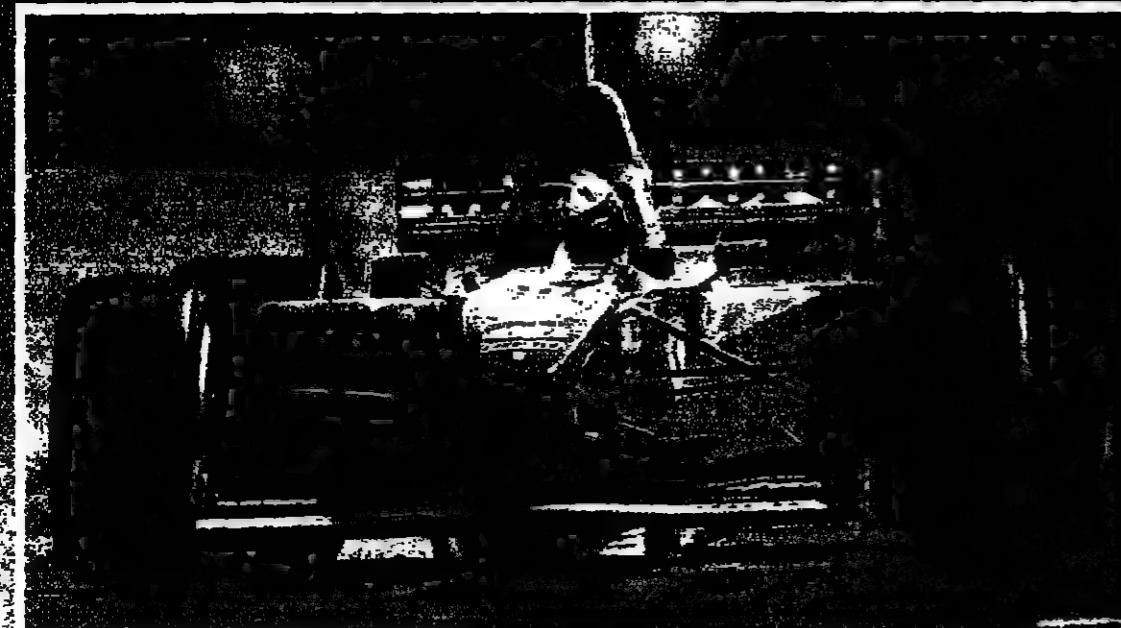
Sutton runs to victory in Chicago last October

'People are asking if she can replace Liz McColgan as the British No 1'



EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION

Fantasy race hots up for our £25,000 top prize



THE PRIZES The manager with the best score after the European Grand Prix will win £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the best score at the Portuguese GP wins a trip for two to next year's British GP. The runners-up will receive a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game.

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED AT SUZUKA

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid); Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd M Schumacher 25; 3rd E Irvine 24; 4th M Hakkinen 23; 5th G Berger 22; 6th H-Frentzen 21; 7th J Alesi 20; 8th J Herbert 19; 9th G Fisichella 18; 10th O Panis 17; 11th D Coulthard 16; 12th R Barrichello 15; 13th R Schumacher 14; 14th J Magnussen 13; 15th S Nakano 12; 16th P Diniz 11; 17th D Hill 10; 18th G Morbidelli 9; 18th U Katayama 8; 20th T Marques 7.

Finishing points (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix); 1st M Schumacher 60 points; 2nd H-Frentzen 50; 3rd E Irvine 40; 4th M Hakkinen 30; 5th J Villeneuve 29; 6th J Alesi 28; 7th J Herbert 27; 8th G Fisichella 26; 9th G Berger 25; 10th R Schumacher 24; 11th D Coulthard 23; 12th D Hill 22; 13th P Diniz 21; 14th J Verstappen 20. (Only 15 were classified. D Coulthard was classified although he did not finish the race.)

Lap points (one point for each lap completed):

M Schumacher 53 points; H-Frentzen 53; E Irvine 53;

M Hakkinen 53; J Villeneuve 53; J Alesi 53; J Herbert 53;

G Fisichella 53; G Berger 53; R Schumacher 53; D Coulthard

52; D Hill 52; P Diniz 52; J Verstappen 52; M Salo 48;

T Marques 46; O Panis 36; S Nakano 22; U Katayama 8;

R Barrichello 6; J Magnussen 3.

Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place); J Verstappen 21 points; D Hill 15; H-Frentzen 12; P Diniz 9; R Schumacher 9; M Schumacher 3; J Alesi 3; J Herbert 3; G Fisichella 3. Fastest lap time of incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted); none. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted):

D Coulthard -10 points; R Barrichello -10; M Salo -10;

O Panis -10; U Katayama -10; S Nakano -10; T Marques -10;

J Magnussen -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): G Morbidelli -10 points. (G Morbidelli qualified in 18th position on the grid but did not take part in the race due to his accident in the qualifying session.) Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix); Ferrari 30 points; Williams 25; McLaren 23; Benetton 21; Sauber 20; Jordan 19; Arrows 15; Tyrrell 13. Penalty points

incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted); none. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Prost -20 points;

Minardi -20; Stewart -20; McLaren -20; Tyrrell -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Sauber -10 points.

Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Slickhead 3	A Bradley	11963
2	Dow Jones 2	I Dowdy	11952
3	Wood Racing	M Wood	11880
4	Raith Rovers F.C	D Shepherd	11860
5	Team U D O	P Watley	11732
6	Mosuviie	J Madden	11729
7	Forza 27	M Joannides	11700
8	Waite Racing F1	P Waite	11656
9	Stayem	M Sleigh	11636
10	Sky Stars	A McPhee	11596
11	Fantair Racing	R Crosby	11596
12	Diamond	M Parsons	11596
13	Burridge Racing	I Burridge	11596
14	Grow 97	P McKinney	11596
15	Sennasational 5	G Curry	11596
16	Bet A Ton	M Dymond	11591
17	The Very Real Club	J Heighway	11580
18	Red Menace 1	M Power	11580
19	Man's Maniacs	M Johnson	11580
20	Thompson Terrors	A Thompson	11580
21	Rufus II	S Daniels	11580
22	Bangers	R Mullen	11580
23	Mark's Wizards	M H Evans	11580
24	—	A Pearce	11580
25	Stevie G1	S Georgiadis	11580
26	Adam's Autos	C Adams	11580
27	Harris Rule Racers	N Roberts	11580
28	GFO	A Gent	11580
29	Geordie	M Clark	11580
30	Snic Racing	N J Trott	11580

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Japanese GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS	
GROUP A	GROUP B
01 D Hill	99 1211
02 M Schumacher	141 1857
03 J Villeneuve	12 1750
04 E Irvine	117 1356
05 J Alesi	104 1737
06 G Berger	100 1476
07 M Hakkinen	108 1167
08 D Coulthard	61 1343
09 R Barrichello	11 781
10 H-H Frenzen	148 1556
11 J Herbert	102 1416
12 M Salo	36 1219
CONSTRUCTORS	
GROUP C	GROUP D
25 Williams	25 260
26 Ferrari	30 250
27 McLaren	13 122
28 Benetton	21 283
29 Jordan	19 146
30 Prost	20 114
DRIVERS	
31 Arrows	15 3
32 Sauber	10 189
33 Tyrrell	3 1
34 Minardi	20 8
35 Stewart	20 167
36 Lotus	0 0

*Oliver Panis replaces Jarno Trulli in the Prost team.

Tarso Marques replaces Trulli at Minardi and at Sauber Gianni Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larini, replaces Fortuna.

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001
+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls). For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

Nicol and Harris pool resources

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN ALEXANDRIA

MUCH may be learnt here this week about the benefits of bringing squad psychology to the highly individualistic world of professional squash competition.

Peter Nicol, of Scotland, and Del Harris, of England, drew support from the management and coaching expertise of Neil Harvey and David Pearson, the men behind England's team successes in the junior and senior men's world championships over the past two years, to reach the semi-finals of the Egyptian Open. But two of the most individualistic players emerged to bar their way to the final today.

Nicol, 24, of Fife, who has risen to world No 3 with Harvey as his personal mentor, was scheduled to meet the world champion, Jansher Khan, whom he defeated the last time they met in the final of the Al Ahram

RUGBY UNION

Saint-Andre returns to captain France

BY MARK SOUSTER

TO SOME they may be overpaid and over here, but the France selectors yesterday showed that they bore no malice towards their international players who now play in England. By naming Philippe Saint-Andre, Thierry Lacroix and Laurent Cabannes in the side to play Italy in the opening match of the Latin Cup in Auch, France, tomorrow, France have shown a realism that has not always been evident in their selection policy.

Saint-Andre, now part of an increasingly cosmopolitan Gloucester side, returns as captain for the first time since being injured against Romania last year. Although he made his international comeback in the defeat against Italy in March, he now replaces Abdel Benazzi as captain.

While Saint-Andre's recall was always probable, those of Cabannes and Lacroix, of Harlequins, were less so.

Lacroix, 30, won the last of his 38 caps against Ireland at Parc des Princes in February last year, while Cabannes, 33, last played against Wales in Cardiff a month later.

Cabannes comes in at open-side in place of Olivier Magne, considered by many to be the outstanding player of the five nations' championship this year, while Lacroix is at fly half, ahead of Alain Pernaud.

Pierre Villepreux, the assistant coach, said that Christophe Lamaison would be the place kicker, freeing Lacroix of the responsibility. "We don't want to weigh him down," Villepreux said. "We want him to organise the game as he has been doing for Harlequins this season."

Lacroix's partner at half back will be Fabien Galthié, who is preferred to Philippe Carbonneau, the Brive scrum half, who was involved in the

FRANCE v Italy tomorrow: J. Sardou (Colombe), L. Lejeune (Bourges), A. Lemoine (Béziers), T. Costiglio (Béziers), P. Saint-Andre (Gloucester), C. Lamaison (Toulouse), S. Lacroix (Colombe), F. Galthié (Toulouse), L. Cabannes (Paris), A. Benazzi (Agen), R. Rebatz (Toulouse), J. Cabannes (Toulouse), S. Gau (Bordeaux), P. Pernaud (Agen), A. Pernaud (Bordeaux), J. P. Laffargue (Bordeaux).

SNOOKER: FORTUNE FAVOURS FORMER WORLD CHAMPION IN GRAND PRIX

Deserving Parrott takes pot luck

BY PHIL YATES

SUBSCRIBERS to the theory that good fortune in sport is equally distributed in the long term would have viewed John Parrott's 5-1 victory over Drew Henry in the second round of the Grand Prix at Bournemouth yesterday with considerable interest.

When the pair met at the corresponding stage of the British Open last season, Henry admitted that he had enjoyed a benevolent run of the balls during a surprise 5-3 win. On this occasion, the roles were reversed as all the luck favoured Parrott.

Henry's first setback arrived in the opening frame. He needed to pot the pink to lead 1-0 only to go in off and Parrott sank pink and black. Worse still for Henry, Parrott fluked the last red in the fourth frame on the way to producing a 4-0 clearance to lead 3-1.



Parrott impressive

new-found status within the game has not placed him under any additional pressure, yet its very mention would suggest that the idea had crossed his mind.

"I have been putting in an awful lot of practice lately but obviously I've got to work even harder," Doherty said. He

HOCKEY: GARRARD TO FACE FORMER CLUB AS ENGLAND WOMEN SUFFER SETBACK

Johnson returns to lift unbeaten Cannock

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

BRETT GARRARD, the England Under-21 captain, who played for Guildford last year, has joined Teddington and is in the squad for the National League premier division match against his former club on Sunday.

Garrard fills a gap in the Teddington defence caused by the absence of Dawkins, the Australian who is injured. Guildford are at full strength with Hall, Moseley and Markham as front-runners and Jennings in support.

All eyes will be on the match between Cannock and Hounslow, the only clubs with 100 per cent records. Cannock, the hosts, have strengthened their midfield by recalling Johnson, who was rested after the junior World Cup at Milton Keynes. Kalib Tahir will not play because his ankle injury has not healed. The only doubtful starter in Hounslow's squad is Williamson, the Wales defender, who has a swollen thumb and who could be replaced by Lance.

England's build-up disrupted by injury

BY CATHY HARRIS

Southgate, for whom Sims scored three goals in the 7-2 defeat of Teddington last week, expect to be even stronger for the home match against Canterbury, with Craig Carolan from South Africa, as their new centre half. Canterbury, the surprise team of the league, are persisting with Everett, Humphries, Mathews and Wicken, the junior World Cup players.

Reading, the title-holders, in seventh position, have some repair work to do when they entertain Barford Tigers. Manpreet Kochar's return to their defence after a two-week rest restores them to full strength. Old Etonians expect to earn full points from their home match against newly-promoted Beeston.

Hilary Rose, the Olympic goalkeeper and a student at the University of Massachusetts, will not be making the trip either, but the good news is that Tammy Miller, the Clifton captain and mid-field player, has recovered from a calf injury and will make her return to the international scene.

After the games in Germany, Souyave will announce the squad to play South Korea, the Olympic silver medal-winners in two

matches at the end of this month.

For the young players in the side there is everything to play for while for others, Souyave has admitted it is a make-or-break situation. "I imagine that most of the players will be pretty nervous when we start," she said.

"But it's crucial for me to see how the younger players perform alongside the more senior members and react under pressure when they're wearing an England shirt."

With at least ten players resting from international competition or sidelined with injuries, Souyave can afford to be ruthless when she assesses the whole England senior training party at Lilleshall on October 20.

ENGLAND: G. Gater (Caversham), J. Engen (Caversham), J. Cufford (Cufford), T. Miller (Cottenham), C. R. H. (Highgate), L. King (Lancaster), J. B. (Lancaster), S. J. (Lancaster), K. Bowden (Lancaster), C. Voss (Lancaster), J. Bishop (Loughborough Spartans), K. Bowden (Soughton), M. Nichols (Soughton), J. G. (Sutton Coldfield), J. G. (Sutton Coldfield).

Blair fits the bill for club and country

Mark Souster meets the coach who aims to take England and Bath to new levels of physical attainment



Among the many overseas recruits who have slipped into the English game this season, the most astute signing could prove to be a craggy 63-year-old grandfather from New Zealand.

On the surface, Jim Blair, who joined Bath this summer as fitness trainer, appears an unlikely guru. For a start, he smokes incessantly. It is not so much the man, however, as his methods and track record with Auckland and the All Blacks that have ensured that Blair is considered a doyen of fitness coaching.

It is also why Clive Woodward, on being appointed England coach, wanted him involved with the international squad. The pair worked together only briefly at the Recreation Ground but Woodward was sufficiently impressed that he insisted that Blair came on board on a consultancy basis, starting last month, through to the 1999 World Cup.

He made an instant impression on the polyglot squad at Bath, where the training regime has radically altered with new ideas and structures put into place. Parachutes, sleds and hurdles are now part and parcel of the schedule. "He is unbelievable in a different class," Andy Nicol, the Bath captain, said.

Blair left his native Glasgow 35 years ago for a new life in New Zealand, armed only with a physical education diploma, six years' experience as a physical education instructor with the Royal Air Force, £11 in his pocket and a head full of ideas.

He admits it is ironic that, a Scot by birth, is now helping England's cause and that life, as it often does, has come full circle. He emigrated to escape the stiffness and strictures of Britain but has returned, albeit temporarily, on a two-year contract, having made his expertise with the Royal Air Force, £11 in his pocket and a head full of ideas.

Down Under. During his 15-year tenure with Auckland, where he revolutionised modern fitness coaching, he enjoyed unmatched success: only six games were lost out of 300. He worked with the All Blacks in the 1987 World Cup and has also lent his expertise to Western Samoa, Fiji, and Australia.

His avuncular air masks a

man of steely disposition. "I am very demanding — I am used to being with winners," Blair said. "I am not used to losing and I have no intention of getting used to it. The one thing I cannot stand is dishonesty. I will trust players to have done the work; if I find I can't trust them, they and I are finished."

Blair is convinced that the

ability and fitness of England's elite do not lag far behind those of New Zealand. It is the system, the plethora of matches, that lies at the root cause of England's inability to dominate the world game. Players, he has found, are mentally dulled by the treadmill of club and international rugby.

The system here is a

splendid recipe for mediocrity. A top All Black will play a maximum of 35 top-class games a season, which we think, may be too many. Martin Johnson could play 47 games. It is a huge load. It is not fair to players. You are misusing your assets, which are the players. You have to look at the number of games. Sit down and start with the word excellence and then work backwards asking, 'how will we achieve this?'

His own theories and philosophies were first put into practice with the New Zealand elite under-19 squad in Christchurch, work that brought him to the attention first of Alex Wyllie, the Canterbury coach, then John Hart at Auckland and finally Brian Lochore for the 1987 World Cup.

"When I first watched rug

by teams train, they all did

the same thing: went for runs

and used one ball. When J

You must start with the word excellence and work backwards to achieve it

started with Canterbury. I asked Grizz Wyllie for 16 balls. He said there weren't that many in Christchurch. I told him we had to do it my way or not at all. He eventually agreed. I couldn't understand how players were expected to handle and run and be deceptive on a Saturday, if that was the only time in the week that they touched it."

Mutual trust lies at the core of New Zealand rugby, which translates into what Blair describes as "matship". He said: "They talk a lot about being in the dressing-room at the end of a game and being able to look each other in the eye — they really mean it. The All Blacks are a very emotional group of men; they may not show it, but they really get emotional about the game. They care about not letting their mates down." If he can help to engender that spirit, then New Zealand's loss will be England's gain.

Hallett predicts further conflict

BY DAVID HANDS

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TONY HALLETT, one of the central figures in the long-standing dispute between officers of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), believes that the battle between the sport's traditional authorities and the leading professional clubs is far from over.

Hallett, who resigned as secretary to the RFU in August, said in an interview with the magazine, *Rugby News*: "England's owner-backed clubs need more space for self-determination, greater delegated opportunities and a general freedom. But I don't think that is consistent with what the new regime at Twickenham wants."

Hallett's resignation became inevitable after the July annual meeting that voted so firmly in favour of retaining Cliff Brereton as chairman of the management board. But he remains convinced that the union was right to reach the contentious agreement with BSkyB (the satellite television company part-owned by News International, owner of *The Times*), in defiance of the other home unions, and that television rights remain central to a healthy future for the clubs.

"I can't see that clubs with serious investments in them will accept the present situation when they think how it is in football," Hallett said. "For example, the International [Rugby Football] Board has set the regulations that say only governing bodies may investigate broadcasting rights. I think they're wrong and I think European law will demonstrate that. It seems absolutely restrictive practice and any governing body must be very aware of its position in law. Because the challenge will come, that is for sure, from this country if not from France."

Hallett's views are expressed in a month when several leading clubs are showing signs of financial distress and in a week before Channel 5 will confirm details of a weekly rugby programme to which the clubs have contributed substantially.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SHERLOCK HOLMES

HORACE HARKER

STEILER

DIOGENES

SICILIAN DEFENCE

WORD-WATCHING

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

KASPAROV'S LOSS

SICILIAN DEFENCE

WORD-WATCHING

WINNING MOVE

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WORD-WATCHING

WINNING MOVE

Bonetti ready to go on parade at Palace

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

CRYSTAL Palace yesterday signed the Italian midfield player, Ivano Bonetti, on a week-to-week basis.

The former Grimsby Town and Tranmere Rovers man originally impressed the Palace manager, Steve Coppell, in a trial match last week. "I felt he was the best player on the day," Coppell said. "We are signing him on a short-term basis for three or four weeks.

"He has very good vision and, at the age of 33, he has great mobility. I don't really have a vacancy in the squad, but he won't cost a transfer fee — just his wages. So I thought why not give it a chance. He is determined to play in the Premier League. That can only be good for Palace and myself."

Bonetti started his career in England with Grimsby, but left for Tranmere after a dressing-room clash with them manager.

Coppell was having a busy time in the transfer market. He snapped up the young Wolverhampton Wanderers full back, Jamie Smith, in a "straight two-for-one swap" as both Dougie Freedman and Kevin Muscat, the 24-year-old Australian, travelled to the Midlands.

The Freedman deal has been mooted for a couple of weeks now," Coppell said. "In an ideal world, I would like to have kept Dougie, but his contract was up shortly and under the Bosman ruling, he would have been free to move. We had a similar situation with David Hopkin at the end of last season.

"At the moment we have got a surplus of right-backs and Mark McGhee needed to replace Jamie and Kevin wants first-team football."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, yesterday ruled Roy Keane, the Republic of Ireland midfield player, out of the World Cup finals next summer. Ferguson does not believe Keane can recover from the cruciate ligament injury in time to play in France, should the Republic beat Belgium in the play-offs.

"I think we could have him back training in April. Therefore we have to really monitor the type of injury Roy has because it is such a bad injury. "He will be back — that's no doubt about that — but I'm looking more to the start of next year," said Ferguson.

Asked if he felt that Keane would be competitively fit this season, Ferguson said that, at best, Keane would only be training.

There's a big difference between normal training and football training and taking part in football, because the injury is a type of injury that needs a long recovery.

"It needs a really good rehabilitation period and you need luck too. Hopefully, these three things will fit in nicely for Roy and hopefully, when he does start training in April, there will be no signs of the injury."

Asked if Keane would be fit enough to play in the World Cup finals next June, Ferguson said: "I personally don't think so."

FOOTBALL: MERSEYSIDE CLUB FAVOURITES FOR COCA-COLA CUP AFTER FOURTH-ROUND DRAW

Liverpool convinced cup is real thing

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT DOES not take much to become favourites for the Coca-Cola Cup; merely, it seems, an assertion that your club will not snigger at the very mention of the competition. When Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, suggested, therefore, that he would field his strongest possible side in the competition and his team was handed a home draw against Grimsby Town in the fourth round, the bookmakers could do little else but break for cover. Odds of 11-4 still look somewhat generous, given the rest of the draw.

Manchester United have already fallen by the wayside and, with Arsenal pursuing a policy of resting their leading players for the competition, the way looks invitingly open for Liverpool. The obvious dangers are Newcastle United and Chelsea, but both have been handed stern examinations.

DRAW

FOURTH-ROUND DRAW: Leeds v Reading; Middlesbrough v Bolton; Chelsea v Southampton; Derby v Newcastle; West Ham v Walsall; Liverpool v Grimsby; Arsenal v Coventry; Oxford United v Ipswich.

To play in week of Nov 17

tions against FA Cup rivals, Chelsea at home to Southampton and Newcastle an extremely tricky tie at fast-improving Derby County.

It all leaves Evans with an air of satisfaction, especially after the kind draw. "I know that other clubs have a different attitude, but we will try to win anything we enter," he said. "We have a tradition in this competition and it would be wrong not to honour it."

"We have won the trophy five times and I will select the strongest side to try to make it six. It is none of my business how other teams view the Coca-Cola Cup, but we want to win it. We are pleased to have a home draw, but I don't think we are obvious favourites. Grimsby will come to Anfield with their confidence high after a fine win over Leicester."

Such bullish sentiment will

be music to the ears of the sponsor, but one still wonders if Evans has pitched it right. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, could barely contain his joy after his side was knocked out of the competition by Ipswich Town on Tuesday, his broad smile speaking volumes.

With a UEFA Cup place no longer on offer, the obvious question remains, what is the point? Why should Liverpool embroil themselves in the heavy programme that success in the cup will bring, when they have far greater prizes to pursue. It is the Premiership that Evans must win if he is to secure his management tenure, not an empty day out at Wembley.

In saying that, there are plenty of clubs that would appreciate a trip to the twin towers before the grand old stadium is remodelled and the Football League has not yet given up hope of regaining a European berth for the winter.

Uefa has removed it from next season, but the Football League has petitioned the European Commission in Brussels in the hope of winning it back. Chris Hull, a League spokesman, asserted yesterday that there is still genuine confidence. "Our efforts in Brussels are going well," he said. "They have been very sympathetic and we really are very confident that the winners of the Coca-Cola Cup will qualify for Europe next season."

West Ham United, with a home draw against Walsall, are interesting 10-1 chances to lift the trophy, but perhaps the most attractive bet of all is the 5-1 available against Chelsea, even though the London club received some further bad news yesterday.

Gustavo Poyet, their Uruguay international, underwent an operation in Brussels after snapping knee ligaments in training and will be absent for the rest of the season. However, Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, has already indicated that he does have money available to sign a replacement.



Poyet, right, of Chelsea, who will be out for the rest of the season after snapping knee ligaments in training

Anderton enjoys quick half

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TOTTENHAM Hotspur received some overdue good news in a difficult season yesterday when Darren Anderton took part in his first competitive game since May.

The England winger, who has been out of action for five months because of a hamstring injury, played 45 minutes for the reserves against Norwich City without suffering any adverse reaction, but said that he was too short of match fitness to be considered for the FA Carling Premiership match against Sheffield Wednesday at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

"There's no point in my coming back because of a bad result for the team on Wednesday," Anderton said. "It's been a nightmare and I want to be out there, but I would be silly to come back too soon." It had been planned that Anderton would play only the first half against Norwich and he admitted that he felt tired

for the last 15 minutes. "It shows I'm not right to go straight in the first team," he said. "When I do return, I want to be completely right. There is another reserve game next Wednesday and that is my next target. Hopefully I can play for an hour, or even all of that one."

"I need to play for at least an hour before coming into

consideration for the first team. The main thing for me is that the hamstring feels fine. It would be silly to go straight into a Premiership game."

His eventual return will go some way towards easing the air of gloom at Tottenham, which was exacerbated on Wednesday when they were beaten 2-1 by Derby County in the third round of the Coca-Cola Cup. Anderton has played fewer than 30 games for Tottenham in two years and his absence this season — alongside several other first-team players — has coincided with poor results and a mounting campaign by supporters against Gerry Francis, the manager.

Anderton showed glimpses of his quality in the low-key surroundings of Chigwell, fitting in a 30-yard free kick that Bryan Gunn, the Norwich goalkeeper, tipped over. The match finished 1-1.

Each of the six premier division representatives were told that they could not vote on their individual club motions to resign from the Scottish League. Because of the precarious balance of power on the 12-man committee, it meant that Celtic, Rangers, Dundee United, Aberdeen, Hibernian and St Johnstone were defeated 6-5.

THE proposed breakaway league in Scotland ran into procedural difficulties yesterday when a meeting of the Scottish League management committee descended into farce.

Each of the six premier division representatives were told that they could not vote on their individual club motions to resign from the Scottish League. Because of the precarious balance of power on the 12-man committee, it meant that Celtic, Rangers, Dundee United, Aberdeen, Hibernian and St Johnstone were defeated 6-5.

The four other premier division clubs without representatives — Dunfermline Athletic, Heart of Midlothian, Motherwell and Kilmarnock — were able to win their votes, but two required the casting decision of Doug Smith, the committee chairman and Dundee United vice-chairman.

Peter Donald, the Scottish

League secretary, said that it was a principle of natural justice that any member putting forward a motion should not be allowed to vote on its outcome. "With the ten clubs putting forward identical resolutions there were ten votes, but in only four of those

they wanted to set up their own league. They have to persuade the 30 other member clubs that change is in their best interests and today's lost votes showed they have yet to do that."

The next stage for the management committee is to hold a special general meeting, when all clubs will be asked if the four given initial permission to resign can leave at the end of the season. It appears to leave the remaining six in limbo, but Campbell Ogilvie, of Rangers, said it would only delay the inevitable.

"What happened here was tactical voting," he said. "What we were trying to do was shorten the two-year period of giving notice to leave."

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The next stage for the management committee is to hold a special general meeting, when all clubs will be asked if the four given initial permission to resign can leave at the end of the season. It appears to leave the remaining six in limbo, but Campbell Ogilvie, of Rangers, said it would only delay the inevitable.

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ATHLETICS 42

Sutton in the running for Chicago Marathon

SPORT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 17 1997

RUGBY UNION 43

Blair gets England fit for survival

£13m fee scares off Ferguson

United get cold feet over Chile striker

BY DAVID MADDOCK

MANCHESTER United have reacted with some amusement to suggestions that they are about to pay £13 million for Marcello Salas, a relatively untested 21-year-old forward. There remains, however, a distinct possibility that the Chile international striker could eventually arrive at Old Trafford.

Salas enjoys a burgeoning reputation in South America, one that was enhanced on Saturday when, watched by Brian Kidd, the United assistant manager, he scored a hat-trick in his country's 4-0 victory over Peru. Kidd duly gave a favourable report and Martin Edwards, the club chairman and chief executive, subsequently made contact with River Plate, the Argentine club that Salas is contracted to until 1999, to express an interest.

The response has been confusing. David Pintado, the River Plate vice-president, was reported as asserting that Salas would not be allowed to

leave before the end of the year, but, yesterday, Alfredo Davi, the president, confirming United's interest, admitted that he would be prepared to open negotiations — at £13 million. Perhaps coincidentally, that figure also happens to represent the size of the club's debts.

Manchester United will be reluctant to become involved in any talks that are conducted in such a public manner. However, Alex Ferguson, the manager, indicated yesterday that while there is no immediate prospect of any incoming transfer, he would monitor the situation and could be prepared to move some time early in the new year, before the deadline for the knockout stages of the European Cup should United qualify.

"We are aware of the lad, but there is no prospect of any transfer at the club at present," he said. "We will not be signing anyone until after the Champions' League stage."

Sources within the club suggest that, although Ferguson is interested in signing Salas, he accepts that the club's board would not be willing to pay such a fee for an inexperienced forward. There is also the tricky subject of work permits. Salas has played barely a handful of games for his country and would have difficulty in qualifying under the stringent rules set down by the Department of Employment.

It is a road that United have been down before, when they tried to sign Mauro da Silva, the Brazilian. Edwards would be reluctant to make a further move unless he is confident of a successful outcome.

David Murray, the Rangers chairman, confirmed yesterday that he will allow Paul Gascoigne to leave Glasgow should the player so desire, yet despite reports that Aston Villa had bid £4 million for the England international, his destination is far from certain. Tottenham Hotspur, Gascoigne's former club, are thought likely to register their interest early next week.

Gascoigne has made no secret of his continuing affection for his former club and is understood to have told several close friends that he would love to return to Tottenham to enhance his chances of playing in the World Cup finals next summer. He will probably have to make a decision within the next week and it will not be easy.

Gascoigne has been inspired by Rangers' attempt to win ten successive Scottish League titles, thus eclipsing Celtic's record, but he recognises several strong reasons for him to move, not least because he is not now guaranteed a first-team place.

Gascoigne also realises that the lack of competition at club level in Scotland could hinder his prospects of playing in France. Rangers are again out of Europe at an early stage and the intense rivalry in the FA Carling Premiership appears far more attractive.

Tottenham have remained quiet on the subject, in part because they are wary of being linked with a big-name player only to lose out, as happened with their attempts to sign Juninho and Fabrizio Ravanelli. There remains, however, a determination at the club to bring Gascoigne back to London. They have struggled for five years to fill the void left by Gascoigne's departure. Money, too, is no object with Alan Sugar, the chairman, already sanctioning a bid in excess of the £4 million that Rangers would demand.

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This did not cost his team dear

Leonard's 65 yesterday was

more than competent, too.

"I saw Justin was eight

holes after 12 holes,"

O'Meara said "and thought to

myself: 'He is going to shoot a

59.'" A 59 was not on the cards

after Leonard dropped strokes

on the 14th and 15th but he

ended courageously by getting

a par at the 17th and birdieing

the last.

One advantage of this pecu-

liar medal matchplay format

is that every match must play

the 17th, no matter by how

many strokes one man may be

leading the other. Most years

the Road Hole gives so much

pleasure and excitement it is

worth of an entrance fee all

of its own. Yesterday was no

exception.

Takao Watanabe, the

lightest man in the Japan

team, ran up a six against

Russell Clayton, the heaviest

member of England's trio,

which took the pressure off

Clayton and helped England to

win 3-0. Paul McGinley, of

Ireland, birdied the 16th and then

parred the 17th to claw his way back to within two

strokes of Relief Goosen. This

was not close enough, because he

lost by one stroke to Goosen and with Darren Clarke taking

too many putts against

Ernie Els, Ireland lost to

South Africa.

The 17th contributed to

France's 2-1 defeat of Australia,

when Steve Elkington took a

five there and Jean Van de

Velde birdied it. That put the

two men level. Elkington

missed a six-foot uphill putt on

the last green to win. Then, with less than 80 yards to go to

the flag, on the 1st, the man

who won the Players' Champi-

onship last March hit his ball

in to the Swilcan Burn. Thus

did he do like many a player

before him — and no doubt

many more in the days to come.

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Frank Leboeuf
Living the high life — from a London hotel to the Arctic Circle

Jim Smith
Oliver Holt finds a long-serving manager receptive to new ideas

Danny Baker
How to put the fizz back into the Coca-Cola Cup
Plus
TALKING HORSE
Simon Barnes on an appointment with reality for Daggers Drawn

O'Meara plays captain's role

MARK O'MEARA likes the Old Course at St Andrews. The American, whose greying hair, bulging waistline and friendly face make him resemble a middle-aged insurance salesman, feels comfortable at the place he refers to as the home of golf. Such feelings of familiarity were first demonstrated in the Dunhill Cup last year when O'Meara had a dazzling outward 28 on his way to a 63.

They were increased yesterday when O'Meara defeated Edouard Romero, of Argentina, at the first extra hole of the United States v Argentina match. O'Meara had to play a captain's role because the match depended on him. With a resolute four, when he was helped by watching Romero hit his second into the Swilcan Burn after one bounce, O'Meara made sure the US defeated Argentina. A 65 by Justin Leonard, the Open champion, for victory over Jose Cores, was cancelled over Brad Faxon.

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RESULTS FROM ST ANDREWS

GROUP ONE: England by Jason 3-0

(England names first: R Clayton 72 ft

Heath 71; 73 ft 1996; J Pannier 69 ft 0 front

72; M. James 73 ft 5; S. Holt 74; L. Lang 74; T. Lang 74; France 2-1 (United States names first: M O'Meara 67 ft E Romero 67 ft; Argentina 2-1 (United States names first: F. Tanday 70 ft R. Alister 71; J. Van de Velde 71 ft S Ellington 71 ft 1987; M. Parry 71 ft lost to S. Appleby 68).

GROUP TWO: Sweden by Taiwan 3-0 (Sweden names first: H. Hagman 72 ft Hech Yu-Shu 72 ft 1996; J. Pannier 69 ft 0 front 72; D. Olofsson 71 ft 1996; G. Karlsson 72 ft Germany 2-1 (Scotland names first: R. Russell 69 ft T. Cope 74; G. Brand 70 ft 1996; J. Cope 69 ft C. Mongomery 67 ft S. Stricker 73).

GROUP THREE: South Africa by Ireland 2-1 (Ireland names first: P. McGinley 71 lost to R. Clayton 72 ft 1996; J. Pannier 69 ft 0 front 72; D. O'Callaghan 71 ft 1996; G. Coetzee 72 ft Germany 2-1 (Scotland names first: R. Russell 69 ft T. Cope 74; G. Brand 70 ft 1996; J. Cope 69 ft C. Mongomery 67 ft S. Stricker 73).

GROUP FOUR: Zimbabwe by South Korea 2-1 (Zimbabwe names first: N. Price 72 ft K. Jong-Duck 74; M. McNulty 69 ft M. Hech Yu-Shu 72 ft 1996; J. Pannier 69 ft 0 front 72; D. O'Callaghan 71 ft 1996; G. Coetzee 72 ft Germany 2-1 (New Zealand names first: S. Allister 70 ft M. Martin 73; F. Nobilo 70 ft C. Gadd 71 ft 1996; M. Parry 71 ft lost to S. Appleby 68).

Athletes confirm support for recovery programme

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Athletes' Association (BAA) yesterday gave unreserved backing to David Moorcroft to lead the sport out of its present crisis and, at the same time, said that its members were less concerned with personal losses than helping the recovery. All the top-earning British athletes have yet to be paid for their appearances in British meetings this year. Now they face an anxious wait for their money after the British Athletic Federation, of which Moorcroft has been chief executive for 16 days, went into administration on Tuesday.

Jonathan Edwards and Sally Gunnell, for example, are owed in the region of £70,000. Yesterday the BAA met for the first time since the BAF declared itself insolvent, with a deficit of £530,000, and the meeting, which lasted six hours, was attended by 13 members of the board of 19.

Among them was Paula Radcliffe, who said: "We are not so interested in the short-term let's-get-out-money-back approach. This has given us an incentive to set up a better structure for the sport and for the young people, to give them a better chance than we had." Moorcroft, having inherited a situation which, had he known it was coming, would have persuaded him against taking the job, will stay for the fight. Radcliffe described him as "a big asset" while Steve Backley, also present at the meeting in Birmingham, said that Moorcroft had "brought ideas to the table and was receptive to our ideas". What those ideas were, the

BAA would not say, although

among those mentioned was a registration scheme, long resisted but which could raise more than £1 million a year.

Sean Pickering, a former sponsorships manager for Canon and now a full-time athlete and BAA director, said that a national coach in Holland had told him that he "could not understand how the sport had lasted this long without one."

Geoff Parsons, the BAA's full-time director, said that the meeting formed "a two-track approach": "We wanted to deliver as much information as we could and look at our responsibilities for the future," he added.

Ken Speight, of Moore Stephens Booth White, the Birmingham insolvency practitioner called in as the administrator, said yesterday that it would be probably two weeks before a plan could be formulated. "No hard and fast decisions have been made yet, and will not be until we have met all the interested parties and got their views," Speight said.

Formula One now has the climax to the season it craves, a head-to-head confrontation between its most eminent drivers. Schumacher, one point ahead, has seized the initiative. It is up to Villeneuve to prove that he has the strength of character to respond.

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